STILL WAITING Children wait for the fire truck rationing water to residents of Barangay Holy Spirit and adjacent barangays in Quezon City. JOHN ROSSEL

METRO / A19
New woes for residents near oil leak

NEWS / A2
Noynoy on Trillanes case: Nothing more I can do about it

NEWS / A9
Palace proposes P1.57-trillion budget for 2011

2 DFA staffers charged over missing ₱32M

By Volt Contreras
in Manila
and Dellin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE 30-YEAR-OLD bookish canoe across to officemates as the quiet, punctual, "harmless" type, one who often cried his ailing mother as reason for going on leave.

But Rico Milo Puno apparently also LOCAL A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, July 24, 2010 ★★ Vol. 25 / No. 228

Chavit son in HK jail; but we're in Mongolia, says his dad

By Jan Yamat
The Sun, Hong Kong

RONALD VERGEL SINGSON has been accused of trafficking in dangerous drugs in Hong Kong and is scheduled to appear at the Tuen Mun court on Aug. 19.

Singson, 41, was arrested on July 11 at the Customs Arrival Hall of Chek Lap Kok International Airport, with 26.1 grams of cocaine and two tablets of diazepam (a sedative, marketed as Valium), according to court records.

The records also showed that Principal Magistrate Ernest Lit rejected Singson's application for bail, and that the Filipino national has been detained since.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has denied that the accused is his son, a twelve-year congressman of the first district of Ilocos Sur and a promoter of big foreign concerts in Manila.

Asked about the report, Representative Singson's business partner, actor Jomari Yllana, told the Inquirer that he spoke by phone to the governor, who, he said, told him that Ronald was "on his way back to Manila and will make an official statement."

Chavit Singson said he and his son Ronald were in Mongolia.

According to Comelec records, the middle name of Representative Singson is Veronsa—which has a slightly different spelling from the Ronald Veronza Singson arrested in Hong Kong.

JM Rodriguez, director of Channel X, a cable music station that Ronald owns, also said father and son were in Mongolia and CHAVIT A6

SINGSON

'GMA left empty coffers'

Noy says his Sona to bare 5 shocking anomalies

STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION Soldiers march during the change of command at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. President Aquino has overturned an order to send troops onto the streets of Manila to deal with a water crisis, which is no crisis in the first place, saying this was an "overreaction," or

By TJ Burgonio

"EVEN THOSE of you in the know will be shocked."

With this tantalizing teaser, President Aquino signaled that he would not be straying much from his campaign rhetoric when he delivers his first State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday in the first joint session of Congress since the elections in May.

The President, who made corruption the key theme of his election campaign, indicated that his speech would delve into some of the alleged "anomalies" in the previous administration that his new Cabinet has reportedly uncovered.

He gave the press a preview of some of the more salient points in the turnover ceremonies for the top Army post at Fort Bonifacio yesterday. (See related story on Page A2.)

One of those is the supposed depletion of the P1.54-trillion budget for 2010 and the calamity fund.

"Almost all of the funds that we were to use in the coming months have been marked dry," he told his audience of Army officers and men in Filipino.

"Not even half of the storms LOOK LEFT A2

TROOP REVIEW President Aquino reviews the troops with the outgoing Army commander, Lt. Gen. Reynaldo Mapagu, at Fort Bonifacio.

P-Noy not told on troop deployment

By TJ Burgonio

DON'T EXPECT to see soldiers in the streets of 177 waterless barangays in Metro Manila because President Aquino has turned down a request for the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) to deploy the troops.

Mr. Aquino, who presided yesterday over the Army's turnover of command in Taguig City, said he was not consulted on Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson's request to Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin for "water haulers" to "put order" to the rationing of water.

"I wasn't informed of this, and I talked to the parties concerned as to whose decision this was, and I reminded them that they should consult with me before doing so," the President told reporters in a briefing at the Army Officers Club.

"No troops were deployed. And if there's an issue leading to address a law and order situa- P-NOY A6

Bruising battle in Senate leaves Sharon heartbroken

By Raquel San Diego Jr.
and Christine O. Avendaño

THE HEART of the Megastar is broken and she is "trying heaven."

Caught in the crossfire of politics, Sharon Cuneta believes "bigger forces" are at play in the battle for the Senate presidency in which her husband, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, is a major contender and her uncle, Sen. BREAKING A8

MULTIMILLION ADDRESS This house at the NDC Compound in Sta. Mesa, Manila, is the "office" as indicated in the address given by two firms suspected of smuggling appliances and lane products from China worth P300 million. A first attempt to take pictures was thwarted by drunks and thugs brandishing lead pipes. Earlier Thursday, the Bureau of Customs filed multiple smuggling charges against Eduardo L. Saguid of Gold Mind Trading and Nestor M. Ignacio of Quick Fix Trading. Customs Commissioner Angelina A. Alvarez said the trucks were involved in spiriting into the country at least 1,200 shipments of household appliances, electric fans and radios, office equipment and agricultural products.

1-UTAK drops Reyes as party's 1st nominee

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PARTY-LIST group 1-Utak or Transport Koalisyon (1-UTAK) has dropped Angelo "Angie" Reyes as its first nominee, dashing his hopes of becoming a member of the House of Representatives.

In a resolution issued by the 1-UTAK board, Reyes will be replaced by third nominee Homero Mercado, the group's counsel Donald Dee said yesterday in a telephone interview.

"It is important that 1-UTAK is represented in Congress so as not to frustrate the will of the people who voted for it," Dee said.

Reyes held the defense, environment and energy portfolios at various times in the Arroyo administration. He quit his post as energy secretary upon accepting 1-UTAK's invitation for him to be its first nominee for the May 10 elections.

1-UTAK, which claims to speak for the transport sector, is entitled to one seat in the 1-UTAK A8

Old foe offers to testify on 'sins' of Merci

By Leila B. Salaverria

A GHOST from the not-so-distant past is coming back to haunt Ombudsman Merceditas "Merci" Gutierrez.

Former special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, who had a very public and acrimonious rift with Gutierrez toward the end of his seven-year term, yesterday said he would testify, if asked, to the alleged sins of Gutierrez at the congressional hearings in the latter OLD FOE A11

Wanted: 200 'aspins' for Coast Guard's K9 unit

By Jerry E. Esplanada

WANTED: Drug- and bomb-sniffing pooches.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is accepting canine donations for its "undermanned" K9 unit.

Dog recruits are not limited to foreign police dog breeds like German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Springer Spaniels, Bloodhounds and Beagles.

Aspins (among Pinoy) or local breeds are also welcome, said Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo, PCG commandant. WANTED A10

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: The whole country will experience partly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Metro Manila and Luzon may still have widespread rains while rain may linger in Mindanao and Visayas.

Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy
Legaspi	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly with Rains
Puerto Princesa	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO 6/49 Super Lotto
10 31 14 11 27 17
6/42 Ultra Lotto
8 0 6 9 5 1
4D Lotto
1 4 7 6 1 6
Megalotto 6/45
3 27 29 38 40 43
P51,311,136.80
LOTTO: 7AM2 7pm 10PM LOTTO, send to 4441. PCSOnet

Noynoy retreats on Trillanes

By TJ Burgonio and Nitz Calleja

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday retreated from further immersing himself in the coup d'etat case filed against detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, saying that the Palace could no longer do anything without interfering with the judiciary.

"With regards to the DOJ [Department of Justice], there is nothing that can be done as far as Trillanes' case is concerned," Mr. Aquino told reporters yesterday at the Army Officers' Club in Ft. Bonifacio in Taguig.

After saying that the senator could be a victim of injustice, Mr. Aquino had ordered Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to review the coup d'etat case against Trillanes in connection with the July 2003 armed occupation of the Oakwood apartments in Makati.

Yesterday, Mr. Aquino said the disposition of the case was entirely up to the Makati regional trial court.

"That is properly in the hands of the judiciary under the regional trial court," he said.

He also shared the close to other opinions that were suggested to him in connection with the Trillanes issue.

Attorney's meals on set of Congress, bed pardon, on the other hand, comes only upon final conviction. So those are the steps allowed to us by the Constitution."

Mr. Aquino's order of review has stirred a furor, with Senators Joker Arroyo and Edgardo Angara charging that the move resulted of interference with the judiciary.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, for his part, proposed amnesty for Trillanes to avoid the controversy and the politicization of the judicial process.

Trillanes and several other junior military officers were charged with coup d'etat after they took over the Oakwood apartments in 2003. He had been detained since then and after he was elected senator in 2007.

De Lima herself suggested that it might be too late to review the case.

Lawyer Reynaldo Robles said the case filed by Judge Oscar D. Inocencio of Makati's Regional Trial Court Branch 148 in his decision on July 15 should not be a precedent to Trillanes' latest motion.

MAR ROXAS PROTEST

Binay asks PET for 10 days to reply

By Dona Pazolingan

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay has failed to meet the deadline yesterday in the his reply to the election protest lodged by former Sen. Manuel Roxas II.

Instead of submitting his formal reply, he asked the Supreme Court to give him 10 more days to do so.

Court Administrator and concurrent spokesperson Midas Marquez said the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), received a motion from Binay's lawyers asking for a 10-day extension to formally reply to Roxas' electoral protest.

Roxas, President Aquino's Liberal Party running mate, lost to Binay by around 790,000 votes in the first random automated elections last May 10.

He filed his election protest on July 9 basically asking the PET to conduct a manual revision of votes.

He also asked the PET to count some three million votes that were considered stray or null votes by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and Congress when it canvassed the presidential and vice presidential results as the National Board of Canvassers.

On July 12, Chief Justice Renato Corona issued an order finding Roxas' protest "sufficient in form and substance" and required Binay to submit his answer within 10 days from receipt of the order.

Binay received a copy of the Supreme Court order and the electoral protest case on July 15 and had until July 25 to file his reply.

Meanwhile, Binay' electoral protest landed with Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro assigned to the case was first raffled to Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura but was later reraffled to him. Benito disclosed that he has a relative working for Binay.

Associate Justices Antonio Carpio and Martines Del Castillo had also inhibited themselves from the case.

Carpio was the founding partner of the Villaraza Cruz Marcelo and Angangco Law firm which represents Roxas, while Del Castillo disclosed that he had once served as counsel for the Ayala Group of Companies owned by Roxas' family.

To LP, allies belong spoils

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

TWO DAYS before Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. formalizes his return as Speaker in the 15th Congress, his broad-based alliance led by the Liberal Party (LP) has already clinched most of the committee chairmanships in the House.

But the Lakas-Kampi-Christian Muslim Democrats, which remains the single biggest bloc with 88 members, led by Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, got the second most number of committees with 12, according to Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales II, the incoming majority leader.

Gonzales was one of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD members who switched to the LP and were rewarded with committee postings. He will chair the committee on rules.

The Nacionalist Peoples Coalition (NPC) of Isabela's Speaker Eduardo Ermita and Agusan del Norte Rep. Jesus Sabarre Jr. was given 10 committees and the Nacionalista Party got five.

Some of the committees that have not been filled up could go to party-list representatives, said Gonzales.

The major LP appointments include Cavite Rep. Emilio Ahaya as chair of the committee on appropriations. Iwith Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad, wife of budget Secretary Florencio Abad, as senior vice chair; Parañaque Rep. Rodolfo Colmo, co-chair of the Commission on Appointments; Iloilo Rep. Neil Tupas Jr., committee on justice; Batangas Rep. Hermilando Mandanas, ways and means committee; Iligan City Rep. Vicente Belmonte Jr., committee on dangerous drugs; Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol, committee on banks and financial intermediaries; Manila Rep. Benjamin Asilo, committee on people's participation and Manila Rep. Amado Bagtasprino, committee on games and amusement.

The non-LP members who got chairmanships were: Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero, committee on basic education; Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara, committee on higher education; and Batangas Rep. Mark Llandro Mendoza, committee on agriculture.

Noy hails new chief of Army

By TJ Burgonio and Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday hailed the assumption of Maj. Gen. Arturo Ortiz as the new Army commanding general, saying it marked the end of the politicization of the Armed Forces.

Mr. Aquino, who presided over the turnover of command from Lt. Gen. Reynaldo Mapagu to Ortiz in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, said Ortiz was highly recommended by the Board of Generals after a "rigorous process."

He reminded Army officers and men that Ortiz was a recipient of the Medal of Valor, the highest military honor, calling him a "man of valor, integrity and competence."

"General Ortiz's assumption of command is a concrete step that will show that the era of politics in the military has come to an end," the President said in his speech at the Army grandstand.

In his assumption speech, Ortiz admitted that he did not expect his appointment.

PCGG revamp eyed

By Dona Z. Pazolingan

JUSTICE SECRETARY Leila de Lima has recommended a total revamp of the leadership of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

Speaking with reporters yesterday, De Lima said she had advised President Aquino that all five PCGG commissioners, including the chair, were coterminous with former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and had recommended "the creation of a new PCGG team."

Arroyo stepped down on June 30 after nine years in office.

"The chairman and commissioners were all appointed by former President Arroyo, and they are all coterminous with [her]," De Lima said.

Abcede as 'OIC'

PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio resigned on June 30. The remaining commissioners are Ricardo Abcede, Narciso Nario, Tereso Javier and Jaime Bautista, according to the PCGG website.

De Lima earlier rebuked threats by in-stalling himself as officer-in-charge of the PCGG and claiming that she was supporting him.

She announced that she had not designated Abcede to act as officer-in-charge because she still considered Mr. Lacson-Noonan's records to find out who was the next in rank and most senior officer in the PCGG.

She ordered Abcede to explain why he should not be sanctioned for issuing his July 14 memorandum on his alleged appointment as officer-in-charge without her approval.

In a similar case, Abcede was reprimanded by then Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez for claiming for his use a luxury car owned by the sequestered Philippine Commercial International Corp. (Philcomcat).

He was forced to return the car after a much publicized forum investigation.

Citi never sleeps

citibank

Your reward, your choice.

Powered by Citi.

Have the freedom to choose how you want to be rewarded.

Just spend at least ₱1,500 on your Citi Card and exchange your charge slip for a movie pass worth ₱100 at partner cinemas or ₱100 off at participating Shell stations, Rustan's Supermarkets, Shopwise, Mercury Drug branches, Rustan's Department Stores or at Stores Specialists, Inc. (SSI) stores. You may exchange up to 2 charge slips per day.

To enjoy instant rewards that matter, all you need is your Citi Card.

Get up to ₱200 off on:

Movies	Fuel	Groceries	Medicines	Shopping
FREE MOVIE PASS		SHOPWISE	mercury drug	Rustan's / Stores Specialists, Inc.

No Citi Card yet? Apply Now.
Call 423 3000, visit www.citibank.com.ph or text Citi Card <name/phone> to 2600.

The most rewarding cards in town.

Valid for straight retail, PayDe, Pay with Points transactions with net amount purchase of ₱1,500 and in Philippine currency. Foreign currency transactions are excluded. Use your Citi Card starting July 23, 2015 for the qualifying transaction. To get ₱100 off, present your Citi Card and SUPERSCRIPT the valid original sales slip at participating merchant. Customer shall pay the difference between the purchase amount and the redeemed value of the charge slip using the Citi Card. Customer may redeem up to a maximum of 2 valid sales slips per customer per day. No change shall be given should the purchase amount fall below the value of the redeemed charge slip. The value of the Premium Item must be used on the same day that it is redeemed. Citibank and/or Participating Merchants shall not be obliged to recognize or replace any unissued, misplaced, lost, stolen, or faded charge slips. Visit www.citibank.com.ph for the full set of Terms and Conditions.

© 2015 Citigroup Inc. Citi and Arc Design are registered service marks of Citigroup Inc. Citibank and Citi never sleeps are service marks of Citigroup Inc. Citi Cards, the most rewarding cards in town, based on a survey conducted by Experteka, June 2015. See flyers for details.

Promo is until October 31, 2015.

Per BTr MCPI Permit No. 4168 Series of 2015.

20 YEARS
Leader in Cards

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor Santiago takes her oath before Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona a few days before she is to start her new term as senator. Witnessed by President Aquino in his inauguration, Corona swore in the re-elected and the oath of several other elected officials. (STORY ON PAGE A5)

STL here to stay, says PCSO; guidelines eyed

By Julie M. Aurelio

WITH STL a viable replacement, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) is unlikely to stop small-town lottery (STL) operations despite appeals from the Catholic bishops to have it scrapped.

"If you do away with STL, 'jueteng' will proliferate and the government will not earn one thing from it. You need something to replace it," PCSO chair Margarita Juico said.

STL was initiated by the PCSO as a bid to eliminate jueteng and offer an alternative livelihood to displaced subvendors (bet collectors) and small-time numbers runners who earn a livelihood from the illegal numbers game.

But members of the Catholic clergy had made repeated pleas to the PCSO to stop STL operations, claiming it had become a front for jueteng.

Reviewing STL

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo had also asked the PCSO to review STL operations and verify these reports.

Juico said they were checking out reports that some of those involved in STL were also moonlighting on jueteng dramas.

She also said that the PCSO regularly conducted reviews of STL operations since it was launched in February 2006.

Before STL, jueteng lations would create a pair of numbers from 1 to 37. With the introduction of STL, however, jueteng bettors now choose a pair of numbers from 1 to 40. Since the two games had similar timeframes, the STL had been used as a front by jueteng operators.

The PCSO chair recently met with DILG officials and some police generals to discuss STL, but no agreement was signed. She said there were some 10 STL operators all over the country.

"We talked about the amount of earnings and some police generals confirmed that it was way below what we should be getting. That's not good," Juico said.

Smokescreen for jueteng

She added that the PCSO was thinking of ways to get coherent and revenues from STL operations in order to "finance the charity work and medical assistance to indigent patients.

In the meeting, it was alleged that gambling lords who use STL as "smokescreen" for their jueteng operations could only 10 percent of their earnings to the PCSO. Cited was the annual STL collection of P300 million in Bicol, which is believed to be only 10 percent of the actual take.

A set of recommendations was endorsed for the "kaplakasang sipsna ng Mahalagang Pilipino PAMPI"—a group of antigambling crusaders—to the DILG and PCSO during the meeting.

The recommendations focused on the qualifications of STL operators, including an agreed value and minimum quota based on the area's passive revenue earning capability. The MMP said it was also necessary to review the existing authority given to operators.

Also recommended was the use of online systems and technology similar to that of lotto to eventually, if not totally, eradicate jueteng.

Vice Gov. Ruy Elias Lopez, a former member and ardent PCSO critic and regulations on illegal numbers game activities and jueteng lords, said family-Juico of MMP.

IT expert says dispute was over payment of firm's debts

By Dante L. Lucas

A PROMINENT information technology expert said he his former business partner for allegedly debt-ridden Vitro Systems Group, defended his actions, saying that the dispute arose simply because of a disagreement on which creditors to prioritize in settling the firm's debts.

In a letter to the business, Augusto "Gus" Lagman said that his dispute with businessman Brian Bitong was due to "our disagreement regarding the disposition of the funds received from the sale of our company's shares to another corporation (Vitro Systems, Inc.).

The company, Systems Standards Inc. (SSI), said in order to a subsidiary Vitro Systems Inc to a 529-based investor, with Bitong also alleging that the transaction was done without her approval as a majority shareholder.

"Mr. Bitong wanted her and me, as the biggest creditors, to be paid at the same time as the creditor banks, on a pro-rata basis," Lagman said. "But while the and I are creditors, we are also board directors and the major shareholders of the company."

"So, the majority of the directors, wanted the bank loans of SSI to be paid first and the shareholders and creditors, after, should there be a balance left from the funds," he added. "We believed that that would be most moral and ethical."

Lagman explained that Bitong filed an estafa case against SSI's director after she failed to "get what she wanted."

"The case was quickly dismissed by the Makati prosecutor because two years ago the lack of probable cause, but recently reversed by the Department of Justice in mid-June, 2010, just a month ago (one of the "midnight" DOJ decisions)," he said.

According to Gus, Bitong was "not the majority source" of SSI, since she only owned 40 percent of the stocks, while 60 percent was owned and controlled by Lagman's group.

He added that the sale of Vitro Systems to Asiaco Capital was approved by the majority of the SSI board, and that Bitong—with her 40 percent stake—could not have stopped the deal, even if she was present during that crucial July 3, 2006 meeting.

Lagman pointed out that, from 2007 to 2009 after the sale of Vitro shares, he was able to negotiate the full settlement of all SSI bank loans, except for one worth P4 million.

"Almost all of the banks [agreed] to condone the interest and penalties on the loans, amounting to approximately P70 million, and even agreeing to a 50 percent [average] discount on their principal amounts," he said.

"Thus, in the last few years of SSI, I was able to save the company some P70 million [in interest and penalties], plus P25 million [in principal loans], plus another P15 million from its capital contributions in Vitro," Lagman said. "How can Mr. Bitong say that I disadvantaged SSI?"

LEADERS of the public and private sectors join hands with the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation chaired by Manny V. Pangilinan for the reforestation of the Marikina watershed.

Reforestation of Marikina watershed under way

AS PUBLIC CONCERN swings back and forth from floods to water shortages, a push for private sector initiative has been launched to help address these reoccurring woes.

The Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF), government agencies, private companies and civic groups signed a memorandum of agreement for the reforestation of the Marikina watershed to help minimize disastrous floods and improve the water supply for Metro Manila and nearby areas.

The short-term goal is to plant trees on some 008 hectares of the 28,000-hectare watershed, with the long-term goal of reforesting a total of about 9,500 hectares. The parties also agreed to pursue the development of sustainable agro-forestry livelihoods for communities in the area.

The Marikina watershed was the source of most of the flood waters that inundated Metro Manila during Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in September last year.

Reforesting the watershed will eventually improve the capacity of the area to retain rainfall water and thus reduce the threat of floods while helping improve water supply for the metro area.

The Marikina Watershed initiative is a broad-based, multi-sectoral cooperation initiated by the PDRF, the private sector partner of the Special National Public-Private Reconstruction Commission created by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the wake of last year's destructive storms. It is chaired by PLDT Chairman Manuel Pangilinan and co-chaired by Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal.

PDRF's public sector partners in this initiative include the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Antipolo City Government, the Marikina Watershed Protected Area Management Board and the National Power Corporation.

Its private sector partners include the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Smart Communications, Inc., PLDT Smart Foundation, Manila Water, Earth Day Network Philippines, the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, Forestry People's Education, Empowerment and Enterprise League of Corporate Foundations, Kalipapa Marikina Watershed, the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, Philippine Business for Social Progress, the Manila Electric Company, Rainbow Foundation, UCPB Foundation, Education For Life, National Power Corporation, Trust Development Foundation, Inc., Mga Anak ni Inang Dangdang, the Trustees of Antipolo, the local government of the City of Pasig and the communities of Barangay Calawis and Barangay San Jose.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 24, 2010
10th Week in Ordinary Time
Shades | Shekhel

Jesus told them another parable, "The kingdom of heaven can be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and left.

When the plants came up and produced grain, the weeds also appeared. Then the servants of the owner came to him and said: 'Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?'

He answered them: 'A thing is the work of an enemy.' They asked him: 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' He told them: 'No, when you pull up the weeds, you might uproot the wheat with them. Let them grow together until harvest, and at harvest time I will say to the workers: Pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them; then gather the wheat into my barn.'

Commentary:

"Let the wheat and the weeds both grow together until harvest."

We are such good, every moment is life to become another person, the more mature.

God does not model us away or expel.

Instead, God waits patiently for us to find our way beyond spiritual adolescence to spiritual adulthood.

Dominican Communications Foundation, Inc., a division of the VP Ministry, Dominican City, Fil. Inc. 2010 All Rights Reserved. Permission is hereby granted for this material to be reproduced.

Ateneo de Zambo meeting

THE ATENEO de Zamboanga University-Green Handle Alumni Association will hold a membership fellowship meeting on Aug. 14 at the penthouse of the Ambiguigo Building, 10th, in North Avenue, Quezon City.

The reunion will be preceded by a binge social at 2 p.m. fellowship night will start at 6:30 p.m.

Alumni president PAUL M. said ATENEMMA will regularly sponsor the binge social as the...ties alumni and

Zamboangeños can meet every so often.

ATENEMMA members are enjoined to bring their families as well as friends.

For details, please call the Secretariat at 426-6001 or 58, or Mr. Emmy Santos at 0917-6859959.

Milan-based Pinoy dies on tourist bus

By Jerry E. Esplanada

AN INJURED Filipino died on July 18 while riding a tourist bus that caught fire between the towns of Venezia and Cello Ligure, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Citing a report of the Philippine consulate in Milan, the DFA yesterday identified the victim as Procopio de la Cruz, who the diplomatic mission said "died of suffocation."

The consulate described De la Cruz as a "resident of Milan" but did not provide other details.

Another Filipino national, Billy Jean Sakin, was "airlifted to a hospital in Genova due to some injuries."

Sakin's condition, however, has stabilized, said the consulate.

According to the consulate, "18 other foot passengers suffered from smoke inhalation and were brought to hospitals in the towns of Arenzo, Voltri and Viareggio."

FIGHTING MOOD

Legislators and government officials are in a fighting mood after taking part in a recent dialogue on human trafficking. They are hearing champion and Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao, Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, Foreign Undersecretary for migrant affairs Esteban Conejos and representatives of Department of Justice, of Labor and of Social Welfare and Development

Mercedes-Benz Global City 815 7777 0920 9566474 Mercedes-Benz Greenhills 722 5808 0920 9566472 www.mercedes-benz.com.ph

'GMA left empty coffers; you'll be shocked,' says P-Noy

From page A1

that we're expecting this year have come in. So when I'll call on you for search and rescue operations, you will be armed with honest and courage because of the dearth of funds and resources," he added.

Briefing reporters later at the Senate Officers' Club, Mr. Aquino said the problems left behind by the former administration "left a lot of us gasping for breath and aghast at what we have learned."

"In terms of gaining knowledge, Monday's [State speech] will really set the tone on so many things," he said.

A lot of austerity

The President confirmed reports that P949.2 billion of the P1.90 budget had already been released, and that only P951.4 billion remained.

But P500 billion of the balance was earmarked for "automatic appropriations" leaving the government with little more than P500 billion at its disposal, he said.

"If you have 30 percent left to take care of the last six months, that's a bit bloody. But again I will emphasize to them in subscription [private parties] that we will be patriotic again in that we will primarily know what's left," he said, referring to budget officials.

Therefore, this would necessitate "a lot of austerity," he said.

The build of the P949.2 billion went to the payment of salaries and personnel services, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said earlier.

In yesterday's briefing, Mr. Aquino said he was just as surprised at the depletion of the calamity fund for this year.

Minimum of 5 anomalies

As of June, the government had spent up P1.4 billion of the fund, leaving a balance of P992 million, budget officials have claimed.

"When [spokesman] Ondoy and Pepeng struck, it was revealed that there were no more funds... I asked them what officer or committee visited the Philippines that would investigate the use of the fund. It turned out it was the repair of infrastructure for the previous years," Mr. Aquino said.

"They did it again this year. So it's depleted again. But it seems there was a particular district that benefited but was not affected by Ondoy. Twenty percent of the funds allegedly went to the singular district," he added.

Asked if the district was in Pampanga, the home province of former President and now Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Mr. Aquino said: "Can I tell you on Monday?"

He said there was "a minimum of five anomalies" that the new administration had unearthed.

"You will be very, very surprised at the things we have discovered. Inside the common expenses, wow! What, they did that?" There's no more. There's no rhyme or reason," he said.

He said he could not go into detail as the State was "still a work in progress. It might be totally overhauled by Monday. But I assure you, your chin will go [on] here, you will be shocked."

Budget key point

According to Malacañang, the budget will be a key point in the 30-minute speech, which was rewritten for the fifth time yesterday and which is entirely in Filipino.

Mr. Aquino will report the state of government resources, propose "double collection" or a host of problems given the budget constraints, and goals of his legislative agenda, said presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"We have to ascertain what the problems are. Therefore [these problems will point to certain solutions that would] be tied to solve all of these problems," Mr. Aquino said, adding the message that he will be giving.

"If you mindlessly the problem you are guaranteed to not come up with a correct solution and you will exacerbate the problem," he added.

PRESIDENT AQUINO at the assumption of Maj. Gen. Arturo Ortiz as the new Army chief in Fort Bonifacio on Friday. JOY NOVAS

Plans, not problems

Analysts yesterday said they hoped Mr. Aquino would use the State to move beyond his campaign rhetoric.

They said he should detail how he will fight corruption, improve infrastructure, reduce poverty and run a large budget deficit, rather than simply take measures largely done the Philippines.

"He's still in the campaign mode," said Benito Lim, political science professor at the Ateneo de Manila University, describing Mr. Aquino as a "true-to-the President, not a visionary."

"He should have hit the ground running on day one. I haven't seen any details of his economic agenda to tackle the fiscal problem. What I have heard him say is the problem of the country and his promises to deal with them," he said.

One of the key problems is the budget deficit, which was one-third larger in the first half of the year than the Arroyo government had estimated for the period for the year's deficit has been raised to P325 billion, a record in nominal terms and equal to 3.9 percent of gross domestic product.

Mr. Aquino plans to raise revenues by cracking down on the issuance of existing laws and smuggling down on smuggling, and has vows of stronger growth could also cut government expenditure.

Investors and rating agencies want to see more plans to broaden the tax base to strengthen underlying revenues and allow for increased investment in infrastructure, as well as the fiscal discipline needed to keep spending under control.

Mr. Aquino may also outline plans to deal with the Abu Sayyaf and communist insurgencies, which the says need to be crushed to attract foreign investors.

No enchanted kingdom

Lacierda said the Sona would be a simple presentation of the country's problems and how to tackle them, and the President would not make promises or presentations and projects that cannot be funded.

"There's no enchanted kingdom," he said in a TV interview.

One hurdle for Mr. Aquino in public support. His victory margin in the presidential vote was the largest since democracy was restored in 1986, but that has not translated to political dominance in Congress.

His Liberal Party does not have a majority in either chamber, although its members have been bolstered by defections from other parties since the election.

The public's high anticipation of his government means Aquino may avoid grand promises or positions, as he seeks to prevent expectations of what can be achieved in a six-year term.

Manage expectation

"I don't expect much from [Mr. Aquino's] speech because he has to manage the opposite expectation. I think that's probably a very high if at the moment," said Earl Parreño, analyst at the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms.

"He can't afford to further raise those expectations because the risks are greater if he fails to match those with actions and delivers on his promises." INQ, with Reuters

P-Noy not consulted on deploying troops; he orders pullout

From page A1

time, it's more properly the venue of the 1987 Philippine National Police," he said.

Mr. Aquino, a survivor of coup attempts against the administration of his mother, the late President Corazon Aquino, in the 1980s, said the request for security had been "withdrawn."

"There's no contemplation of martial law. We only bring out troops to suppress lawlessness," he said, alluding fears of militarization in urban and suburban areas in the metropolis.

Overreaction

Besides, Mr. Aquino added, the water level had started to rise in Angat Dam in Bulacan, the main source of water for 12 million people in the metropolis, thanks to rainfall partly induced by cloud seeding operations.

"The request for security has been temporarily withdrawn because [of] an increase of some 30 centimeters in the water level of Angat," he said. (Story on this page)

On Thursday, Public Works Secretary Singson said he had requested "boats loaded" from the MMDA to maximize water supply to Metro Manila during the period of water rationing and volunteers in the 17 barangays with only six hours of water supply a day or none at all.

He cited reports of residents forcibly jumping long queues at water tanks, or preempting water pipes in certain areas.

The military said 2,000 soldiers from the National Capital Region would be tapped for the orderly rationing of water.

Yesterday, Mr. Aquino appealed to the public for understanding and cooperation from ride who were "overreacting" to the situation.

"Can I just ask the public's indulgence? There are certain members of the government who overreacted, or were perceived to be the worst case scenario," he said.

"But again, some have some

WATER, WATER, WHERE? Activists rally in front of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in Quezon City on Friday to make people aware of the water crisis. The militant group blames the agency for its failure to provide clean, adequate and affordable water supply and services in Metro Manila. RAUL ESPINOSA

as a result of the cloud-seeding operations. They're hoping that we've gone over the hump as far as the peak of the lack of water [crisis] is concerned," he said.

Mr. Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, said the President had put Singson in charge of the situation.

Not in trouble

"He delegated it to Secretary Singson to decide on the water shortage," Lacierda said when asked if the President was not consulted on the deployment of troops to waterless barangays.

He added: "All I know was what was told in the press conference that Secretary Singson had discussed it with Secretary Voltaire [Gazmin]. So I wouldn't know if Secretary Singson spoke to the President [before Thursday's briefing]. All I know is what we got from Secretary Singson to solve the disorder in the lines."

Lacierda said Singson "wasn't in trouble" for his request for "water bullets."

Angat water rising

THE PHILIPPINE Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Saturday (PAGASA) was bringing light rains to the area of Angat Dam, resulting in a rise of half a meter in its water level.

According to Pagasa senior hydrometeorologist Rhea Pereña, the dam's water level as of 6 p.m. yesterday was 166.19 meters above sea level (masl), up from 159.66 masl as 6 a.m. yesterday.

Angat's normal level is pegged at 180 masl.

"It means the area is a little because of the ITCZ. That is why the level went up a little. It was a little more. It would be better if the rains in the area were continuous," Pereña said, adding that the rainfall over the Angat watershed yesterday was measured at around 23 millimeters.

Pereña said the dam would need 600 to 700 mm of rain to reach the normal level of 180 masl. This would mean continuous typhoon, two or three days' worth of rain or 60 days of rainfall such as what was experienced yesterday.

In a point of comparison, Tropical Storm "Ondoy" dumped around 500 mm of rain on Sept. 26, 2009.

It would take the area of the Angat watershed, including the reservoir, is 568 square meters.

"It's been on top of the situation. In fact, Sir and Mr. Aquino[] had a discussion yesterday. He were telling [Mr. Aquino] about what Secretary Singson has done, and he's OK with that," Lacierda said.

Mr. Aquino has also rejected proposals for him to designate himself as a crisis manager of water woes.

"It's not true that there is no water. It's just not available for 24 hours. There's rationing, and there's augmentation by the two concessionaires [Manila Water and Manila Water]," he said.

Activists have blamed the government for the recurring water problems, complaining that although the water sector was privatized in the late 1990s, authorities had not pushed for better services.

"In spite of your services by these water concessionaires, the more than half of the rakets to pipe leaks and pilferage. With reports from Alcinda Pape and AP

Chavit son in HK jail; but . . .

From page A1

would be "away for a month."

Mistaken identity?

The Ronald Verzosa Singson nabbed in Hong Kong appeared in court on Thursday, July 22, but has yet to enter his plea.

The charge sheet obtained from the HK Judiciary Press and Public Relations office specified that the Singson was arrested at the baggage examination counter NO. 9 did not indicate, however, whether he had a companion, which flight he had taken, and where the flight originated.

A Hong Kong source said suspects of this type of offense were usually sent to Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institution. The source source described Singson as "short, English speaking, and the owner of a resort and a television station in the Philippines."

Verzosa confirmed that his partner, the governor's son, had been Hong Kong bound after the last concert they produced, "Echoes in Manila," staged July 9 at the Mall of Asia grounds. Verzosa said the last time he saw Ronald was at the after party that night.

"I was supposed to fly to Hong Kong with him but I could not leave because I had a scheduled (movie) shoot," the actor told the business.

Not true, says girlfriend

Representative Singson is rel. Chavit with Lyka Ortiz, MD, and a several-term lawmaker. He won in the last election against Bernard "Tanody" Barretto of the Liberal party.

He sure filed a bill that sought the immediate disposal and destruction of confiscated, seized or surrendered dangerous drugs and paraphernalia. He has been quoted as saying, "Dangerous drugs are one of today's most serious social ills."

The politician-governor's rumored girlfriend, actress Lorna Tolentino, sent this text message to the business through her manager, Len Dominguez: "She herself (singson sister) is not true. I am surprised. He is on his way home to Manila. Please wait for his statement."

With a report from Pichelle Concepcion

A MONTH IN HONGKONG Source Sun Star Cebu: "Chavit" Singson poses with his son, Ronald, concert promoter and reelected congressman of the first district of Ilocos Sur.

OPENS TODAY!

citi

presents

CATS™

Now and Forever

An international cast with
LEA SALONGA
as Grizabella

Music by
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Based on 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats' by T.S. Eliot

PERFORMANCES UNTIL AUGUST 22 ONLY
TANGHALANG NICANOR ABELARDO, CCP

"A triumphant piece of musical theatre..."
Sunday Times UK

Ticket Hotline TICKETWORLD

891.9999

www.ticketworld.com.ph

GROUPS 30+ GET 10% DISCOUNT

Major Sponsors | Official Airline | Official Ocean Carrier | Official Hotel

Infinity | Philippine Airlines | OOCL | Dusit Thani

Media Partners

Presented by Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, David Atkins Enterprises and Concertus
in association with The Really Useful Company Asia Pacific
Original London Production by Cameron Mackintosh and The Really Useful Group

THE GREATEST MUSICAL OF ALL TIME!

Bruising battle in Senate ...

From page A1

Nicanor Soriano III, is on the other side of the trenches.

"Ayoko ng ibunsi (I no longer like demand)," Cuneta said yesterday.

The award-winning showbiz actress spoke to the business on the phone as the Senate fight continued to heat up, with Bikoy Filipino and his chief ally, Sen. Manuel Villar, still unable to muster enough votes 48 hours before their showdown at the opening session of the 15th Congress on Monday.

Senate Assistant of Cuneta's aunt Helen Gamboa, has said he cannot support Pangilinan's Senate presidential bid but has not categorically said whom he will vote for.

Church groups wading in

Speaking on radio, Sotto yesterday said that the "big guns in Philippine politics" and possibly even some religious groups were getting themselves involved in the Senate fight.

In a late development last night, Sotto said it looked like Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile would remain the Senate president, possibly with more than the 13 votes needed to clinch the position.

Enrile said Estrada and Villar met Thursday night and ironed out their differences caused by the Senate probe into Villar's alleged involvement in the C.5 road controversy.

"There's a lot of drama in the Senate," Cuneta said. "There are bigger forces at work there. What pains me is that my family is being dragged into all this." She did not specify who the "bigger forces" were.

Cuneta said her "heart is broken."

"I've been crying buckets. We try to keep politics away from family conversations and we are able to remain united even though we have different beliefs," she added.

No quarrel with uncle

The show biz star made it clear she was not quarreling with Sotto.

"My respect and love for my Uncle Tito will never change. I understand his decision, but I'm not exactly jumping up and down with joy that he has chosen not to support my husband Bikoy. I am just being honest."

She said she texted Sotto on Thursday night soon after her press conference on her opposition to the current "Megaditman" where she was asked about the power play in the Senate.

"I related it to him exactly what I told the reporters and he texted back to say that he loves me," she said.

Closer together

As much as possible, Cuneta said, she wanted to shield her family from politics. "But I can only do so much. I cannot lie to my children. I cannot pretend it's not happening."

She is "bothered" by talk that she's not keen on her husband's political career.

"I've always been vocal about my husband's political career in general, but I am behind Bikoy 100 percent. He's the man I married. For as long as he is in the right, I will support him," Cuneta said.

If anything, she said, "this whole controversy has brought us even closer."

She said she even texted her husband: "I told Kiko to run for president of our homeowners' association or lang." It's not as troublesome, she said.

'Anything can happen'

Cuneta believes it for her husband's chances in the Senate contest.

"Anything can happen on July 26. But for all intents and purposes, he's already a winner. He's got 11 votes on the dot and we know that the remaining two are just being held back by others."

She is aware critics may take her to task for "meddling" in politics.

"I've been in this business 32 years ... longer than some of those politicians have been in the Senate. It's my right as a citizen to express my opinions."

Importance of family

She is fighting for her family, Cuneta said.

"It's my husband who's being criticized. I don't want my family to feel discomfort just because of politics."

She said that Pangilinan not winning this Senate presidency "is not something that would ruin our lives." What is important is that "President Noynoy Aquino hand-picked Kiko for the job," she said.

"Kiko has the record for coming! Kiko believes that he can be effective (in) any ... (but he) couldn't work hand in hand with the President so that the country can move forward. Our confidence in Noynoy remains strong. Always he was elected President, we were given a chance for a new beginning."

INC and El Shaddai

Speaking on radio earlier yesterday, Sotto said that for the past two days, he has been talking to "heavyweights" in the camp of President Aquino who wanted him to support Pangilinan.

Calling them the "big guns in Philippine politics," Sotto said he explained to them his stance on the Senate race. He said he "understood the situation."

Added Sotto reported statements from Pangilinan's camp that the influential Iglesia ni Cristo was stopping him (Sotto) from supporting Pangilinan because it does not like Villar, he said (He was not the one.

But Sotto said there were other religious groups like the El Shaddai Movement of Mike Velarde, which were in the picture and supporting Pangilinan's bid.

"They also have divided sentiments somehow their want in Senate leader but it did not mean they were murdering totally," he said. "If it's true the INC is for Villar, Brother Mike and El Shaddai are in favor of Pangilinan."

Senate transcends family ties

Sotto also said he could not support Pangilinan because the Liberal Party (LP) did not support him in his senatorial election.

He said he was "sorry" that Genuta was hurt by his decision but that she understood the reasoning.

"I am sorry if Sharon is hurting but the Senate (presidency is) transcends family ties," Sotto said. "Sharon understood."

The Senate should remain independent and should not be pressured even with family concerns. I hope that in due time (Sharon) would understand my decisions. Whatever my decision will be will not change my feelings toward her," he said.

Interviewed on dzMM radio, Sotto said Cuneta texted him Thursday night and told him that "she was hurt but she still loves and respects me."

'LP did not want me'

Sotto also said he had told Pangilinan that "political ramifications" were the reason he would not support him.

Without naming names, he said those who did not want him in the LP senatorial ticket were those who had a "say" in the party lineup. He said that at that time Pangilinan was the campaign manager of the LP senatorial slate.

Sotto said the "complications" arose because his party, the Nationalist People's Coalition, some senators and other allies who supported him in the elections, were supporting another candidates for the top Senate post.

"Now, how can I turn my back on those who supported me and vote for someone whose party did not want me?" he said.

Sotto said he explained this to Cuneta who said him she was not aware of this situation.

1-UTAK drops Reyes as party's 1st nominee

From page B1

House. Reyes as first nominee would have automatically filled in except for interne legal opposition to his nomination as a representative of a marginalized sector.

"The board resolution has been made known to single Reyes. He approved the filing of the withdrawal (of his nomination)," Dan said.

Mercado is "ready and willing to run under 1-UTAK's seat in Congress," according to the source.

2nd nominee quits

The second nominee, Vigan Mendoza, 1-UTAK's representative to the 14th Congress, said he would not take over Reyes' post.

In a letter to the group's executive committee, a copy of which was submitted to the Commission on Elections, Mendoza said he had resigned as second nominee "in view of my unfinished professional commitments as a lawyer and re-as not to delay proper representation of 1-UTAK in Congress."

But despite the absence of legal challenges in Mercado's nomination as 1-UTAK representative, he still will not be able to take a second seat in the House at the opening of the 15th Congress on Monday, Comelec Commissioner Gregorio Lanzanilad said.

"That is no longer possible," Lanzanilad said in an interview, but added that Mercado could attend the opening of Congress as "spectator."

The 1-UTAK resolution will have to be submitted to the Comelec's law department, which will then send a recommendation to the commission en banc which, in turn, will be able to decide if the motion is ready on Tuesday, according to Lanzanilad.

'Qualified' bet ...

Reyes' nomination was withdrawn after the second division of the Comelec declared him qualified to represent a marginalized and underrepresented sector despite his holding senior government posts for years.

After the reckoning of the second division, the law does not mandate a party-list nominee to be a member of the marginalized sector he/she seeks to represent.

It said the decision on who would serve as the face and voice of the party-list group in Congress rested on the organization.

But militant groups asked the Comelec en banc to overturn the second division's ruling. Thus, Reyes must win for the commission's approval before assuming the post, Lanzanilad said.

In a three-page motion, 1-UTAK said the "delay" in the 6 July proclamation of the disqualification case against Reyes had created "anxiety" among its members who were eager to see themselves represented in Congress.

The group said that because the second division's ruling, Reyes must win for the commission's approval before assuming the post, Lanzanilad said.

In a three-page motion, 1-UTAK said the "delay" in the 6 July proclamation of the disqualification case against Reyes had created "anxiety" among its members who were eager to see themselves represented in Congress.

The group said that because the second division's ruling, Reyes must win for the commission's approval before assuming the post, Lanzanilad said.

In a letter to the group's executive committee, a copy of which was submitted to the Commission on Elections, Mendoza said he had resigned as second nominee "in view of my unfinished professional commitments as a lawyer and re-as not to delay proper representation of 1-UTAK in Congress."

But despite the absence of legal challenges in Mercado's nomination as 1-UTAK representative, he still will not be able to take a second seat in the House at the opening of the 15th Congress on Monday, Comelec Commissioner Gregorio Lanzanilad said.

"That is no longer possible," Lanzanilad said in an interview, but added that Mercado could attend the opening of Congress as "spectator."

The 1-UTAK resolution will have to be submitted to the Comelec's law department, which will then send a recommendation to the commission en banc which, in turn, will be able to decide if the motion is ready on Tuesday, according to Lanzanilad.

'Qualified' bet ...

Reyes' nomination was withdrawn after the second division of the Comelec declared him qualified to represent a marginalized and underrepresented sector despite his holding senior government posts for years.

After the reckoning of the second division, the law does not mandate a party-list nominee to be a member of the marginalized sector he/she seeks to represent.

It said the decision on who would serve as the face and voice of the party-list group in Congress rested on the organization.

But militant groups asked the Comelec en banc to overturn the second division's ruling. Thus, Reyes must win for the commission's approval before assuming the post, Lanzanilad said.

In a three-page motion, 1-UTAK said the "delay" in the 6 July proclamation of the disqualification case against Reyes had created "anxiety" among its members who were eager to see themselves represented in Congress.

The group said that because the second division's ruling, Reyes must win for the commission's approval before assuming the post, Lanzanilad said.

In a letter to the group's executive committee, a copy of which was submitted to the Commission on Elections, Mendoza said he had resigned as second nominee "in view of my unfinished professional commitments as a lawyer and re-as not to delay proper representation of 1-UTAK in Congress."

But despite the absence of legal challenges in Mercado's nomination as 1-UTAK representative, he still will not be able to take a second seat in the House at the opening of the 15th Congress on Monday, Comelec Commissioner Gregorio Lanzanilad said.

"That is no longer possible," Lanzanilad said in an interview, but added that Mercado could attend the opening of Congress as "spectator."

The 1-UTAK resolution will have to be submitted to the Comelec's law department, which will then send a recommendation to the commission en banc which, in turn, will be able to decide if the motion is ready on Tuesday, according to Lanzanilad.

2 DFA staffers charged over missing ₱32M

From page A1

"developed a taste for foreign travel" while serving their or a finance officer entrusted with millions of pesos at a satellite office of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

He made at least five such trips—while on leave and without informing his boss—from 2007 to 2009, according to a key finding team who reviewed the paper trail after he mysteriously stopped reporting for work in mid-2009.

On Monday—more than a year after the finance officer dropped out of sight—charges of estafa and falsification of commercial documents were finally filed to cost against Soto, who allegedly made off with ₱28.5 million in free collected by the 100th Regional Consular Office (RCO) in Lucena City.

A certified public accountant, Perez mainly did it by faking bank deposit slips or claiming errors in his computations in order to secure withdrawing money, the charges about said.

Along with Perez, who was the RCO's finance officer from July 2007 to June 2009, his successor Anna Lisa Vil Lanuevo was charged with malversation of public funds after over ₱3.7 million in fees also went missing under her watch.

The prosecutor recommended no bail for the two respondents. The cases filed with their regional trial court in Lucena city scheduled to be raffled off next Monday to determine the judge who will try the case.

Audit of all RCOs

The ₱32-million total may be a mere drop in the bucket compared to the megabuck scams that punch holes in the national coffers, but the Perez case prompted urgent calls for a more regular audit of RCOs around the country.

A special audit conducted prior to the filing criminal charges exposed, for example, that "there were hasty and lapses" in the Lucena RCO's cash management procedures "rendering its loss of government funds."

The agency's fiscal reports were not supported by confirmations from the Landbank and Bureau of Treasury, according to the audit report, as proved it in default. The point was done by Acting Assistant Secretary Marie de Leon Jr.

It even noted that the RCO finance officer "does not have a secure room but has) easy" and had "no locked drawers" despite the large cash flows that come and go there.

It also recommended the conduct of a "surprise cash count on a periodic basis" of the RCO's collections.

A separate fact-finding mission launched by the DFA in November 2009 summed it all up: "Because standard operating procedures (SOP) ... were not complied with for over a two-year period, it now boggles the imagination that ₱6 million and ₱6 ½ lanuevo unbelievably accumulated outstanding inconsistency accountabilities initially pegged at ₱28,681,873 and ₱3,716,000, respectively."

The fact-finding report, sent to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, also noted that "the entire procedure from deposit/collection to reimbursement of deposits, from the accountable RCO (accused to those of Landbank, Bureau of Treasury and COA (Commission on Audit), were altered, if with hasty and lapses resulting in financial loss to the government."

Located in the Metro Pacific Mall, the Lucena RCO serves the provinces of Quezon, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Cavite, Marinduque, Mindoro, Southern and Palawan. It generated an income of ₱64 million in 2008.

The fact that is rendered a longtime officer like Perez—who joined the DFA as a contractual employee in 2003—also made a case of the closely watched coast in a department known for ad-cutting only the best and the brightest in the foreign service.

Perez, who has a cover wedding at the Philippine Consulate General in Dadia, was actually set for reassignment to the Philippine Consulate in Moscow until the alleged irregularities were discovered in September 2009, three months after his term as finance officer ended and the post taken over by Vil. Lanuevo.

Personal use

The charges prepared by Lucena City prosecutor Theresa Dimembungan-Buenaventura said Perez failed to deposit the money of the Lucena branch of the Land Bank of the Philippines and misappropriated it for his personal use.

Perez allegedly falsified the DFP validation on the deposit slip, causing it to appear that the funds were duly deposited.

And were values Perez was no longer the finance officer, on two occasions in August and September but year, he still managed to deceitfully withdraw ₱2,000,000 and ₱200,000 from the RCO's account in LBP the cheque used.

He allegedly raised his "unlawful compensation" of the collections as basis for withdrawing the money.

Presumption of innocence

The charges were mainly based on affidavits executed by Edmundo Mangubat, the acting director of Lucena RCO.

According to Mangubat, Perez had long been used Cabezon withdraw money as the OIC and could not be located in his last given address in Rodin Village II, Hunkid, Inc Imeria.

Perez's usual status was at on reallowed by DFA spokesperson and Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs Ed Malaya.

Villanueva, meanwhile, is currently supporting to the DFA probe and is also under the Office of Fiscal Investigation, Malaya said.

"There is a presumption of innocence, but the his been assigned to work, which would not involve money accountabilities," Malaya said. "The concerned officials are also looking into her work status, whether a preventive suspension is warranted."

Money in a drawer

In his affidavit, Mangubat stated one instance when a cash of ₱208,800 "was lost when Villanueva allegedly left it in her drawer to run an errand while Perez was visiting her desk after her errand. Perez said the money were gone."

A demand letter was sent to Villanueva in November 2009 asking her to pay the total missing amount of ₱3.7 million to explain where it went, he said.

As to Perez, a similar demand letter had been sent to his Bulacan residence but he "was not at home" and the letter was only received by his mother, Margarita added.

"The DFA will not take any wrongdoing in its ranks, and the charges against Mr. Perez should serve as an ample warning for by the RCO in Seoul who may be tempted to abscond with public money," Malaya said.

Asked why the criminal complaints—which were lodged at the prosecutor's office by the RCO in October 2009—took about 10 months to be filed in court, Malaya maintained: "The DFA aided the (court) prosecutors in the case buildup and followed it up vigorously."

Palace proposes ₱1.57–trillion budget for 2011

By Raoul W. Dominguez

MALACAÑANG is set to propose to Congress next month a budget of ₱1.575 trillion for 2011, an increase of ₱116.4 billion or 14 percent from this year's budget of ₱1.543 trillion.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad yesterday said the increase is meant to address the lack of investment in basic social and economic services, which should help sustained economic growth.

Next year's budget will cover the "underinvestment in social services, particularly in education and maternal health," Abad said.

The budget chief said the lack of heavy infusion of resources on such services is hampering the Philippines' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

The MDGs are part of the country's commitments to the United Nations Development Program, which compiles of eight goals that South set basic social issues.

These goals include the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, providing primary education services to all, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing the incidence of death among children, improving maternal health, fighting diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global cooperation for development efforts.

Also, Abad said a bigger budget for next year will solve the dearth of his can on economic services such as power infrastructure and transportation systems.

"Underinvestment in [these services] makes the cost of doing business in the Philippines go higher," he said. "We should have more say parts and appliparts and have longer paved roadway vehicle."

Further, the budget chief said the Aquino administration is eyeing a budget deficit of ₱398.6 billion in 2011 or 3.1 percent of the projected gross domestic product (GDP) for next year.

The amount is lower than the ₱325-billion target for 2010, which is 3.5 percent of GDP—the total value of goods produced and services rendered within the country at a given time.

Pagasa workers seek more benefits to stop brain drain

By Alcuin Papa

EMPLOYEES of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) are asking the regular government to give them the additional benefits they want or risk losing even more experienced weather forecasters to become jobs abroad.

The Philippine Meteorology Employees Association (PMEA), the Pagasa employees union, said in a statement that the grant of additional benefits for employees should go hand in hand with the government's avowed intention of improving the state of the weather bureau's facilities.

PMEA president Flaviano Agustin said the immediate granting of allowable benefits to Pagasa personnel may serve as a temporary incentive for the forecasters not to leave.

A recent Inquirer report showed that a total of 24 experienced Pagasa weathermen have left for high-paying jobs abroad so far this 18 years.

Agustin pointed out that the law allows the grant of a hazard pay to government employees, amounting to 30 percent of the monthly basic salary. Pagasa employees, however, only get the equivalent of 15 percent of the monthly salary.

He also noted that for the past three years, their collective negotiation agreement (CNA) grants employees a measly ₱5,000 signing incentive. In other government agencies, however, employees usually receive an average of ₱20,000 and higher every year, he said.

"These (deprived) are factors for personnel to entertain other working options or positions abroad," he said.

"We only want to get what other agencies get," he said.

Agustin said the Pagasa management has been supportive of the union's call for increased employee benefits. However, the management has been hampered by existing guidelines on the granting of immediate benefits, he said.

The Aglaon party-list group has proposed that Pagasa employees be exempted from the Salary Standardization Law, which would allow the government to grant them higher salaries.

Aglaon also said a course in meteorology should be established to develop a local pool of weather forecasters.

After Typhoon "Basyang" swept through Metro Manila last week, President Aquino recognized Pagasa officials for failing to forecast the path of the storm. He asked Pagasa officials to submit a list of the equipment they needed to improve weather forecasting.

Agustin welcomed the call to modernize the facilities of Pagasa.

"The lack of modern equipment has been partly blamed for perceived inaccurate weather forecasts and warnings," he said.

Cagayan solon dies

By Gil Cabacungan

A MEMBER lawmaker passed away even before he could start to serve his third and final term in the House of Representatives.

Acting House Secretary General Marilyn Barua-Yap told reporters that Cagayan Rep. Florencio Vargas, 76, died of kidney failure at St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City last Thursday. "It's understandable that his death came before the opening of the 15th Congress on Monday. We extend our condolences to his loved ones," said Yap.

Vargas was a member of Lakas-Kampi-Christian Muslim Democrats and he was supposed to return to his original party, Liberal Party, according to Quezon Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada. He is one of the third-term lawmakers in the House.

Since Vargas died before Congress could open, the House is set to file a resolution calling for a special election to be held within 45 to 90 days after the vacancy occurs.

Antonio Lino "Tony" Bergonia

Across the **NATION**

Boracay reclamation project opposed

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A group of business owners on Boracay Island are opposing a P1.35-billion reclamation and development project of the Aklan provincial government.

The Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI) expressed "strong opposition" to the development project for its perceived impact on businesses in Boracay and outer reefs ecosystem and social concerns, said a two-page BFI resolution passed on June 26 and released on Wednesday.

BFI is a group of around 300 owners of resorts, hotels, restaurants and other businesses on the popular island resort.

The BFI said the reclamation and development project covering 36.82 hectares in Barangay Caticlan in Malay town and 3.38 ha in Boracay is being implemented despite the opposition of affected communities and the lack of a thorough consultation among the affected sectors.

Caticlan is the jump-off point to the island resort where the jetty port and the airport are located.

The 10-year project involves the expansion and improvement of the Caticlan jetty port and the putting up of adjacent commercial buildings including hotels, wellness centers and office spaces for resorts, travel agencies, airlines, banks and other companies.

Aklan Gov. Carlito Marquez said in an earlier interview that the project is in preparation for the entry of more tourists on Boracay Island targeted to reach 1 million annually by 2013. He said the project would also generate jobs for Aklanons.

The Aklan provincial government last December signed an agreement with the Local Government Unit Guarantee Corp. and the Philippine National Bank Trust Banking Corp., which will underwrite the bond floatation to raise P1.65 billion for the first phase of the project, which involves the reclamation of areas in Caticlan and Boracay. The succeeding phases of the project will cost around P700 million.

The Philippine Reclamation Authority approved the project in November last year. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources also granted an environmental certificate of compliance to the project on April 27.

But the BFI said in its resolution that the provincial government failed to consult extensively with stakeholders.

The group cited separate resolutions of the Malay municipal council and the Caticlan barangay council opposing the then application for a foreshore lease of an area along the Caticlan coastline.

In its resolution passed on July 22, 2009, the Malay municipal council said the reclamation project severs the entire coastline of Malay.

The BFI said the reclamation would shorten the channel between Caticlan and Boracay and adversely have significant effects on the flora and ecosystem of the current.

5 rowdy American soldiers relieved

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The five American soldiers involved in the July 15 fracas inside the 1st Marine Brigade compound in Barangay Talisayan in Isabela City had been relieved of their duties, the military said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Eugenio Clemen, 1st Marine Brigade commander, did not say who signed the relief order against 1LT Navy Ens Officers 2 Eric Bunch and Devin Fitzgerald, 1C Marine Corps Sgt. Thomas Patterson and Cpl. Brian Nguyen and 1C Sgt. Matthew Blanchard of the US Army.

The five 1C personnel were ready during a convoy of a local band at the Marine headquarters.

"I knew there was an order and I know they have been relieved from here (Basilan)," Clemen said.

But Clemen said he did not get hold of the order and did not know who signed it.

He said the five US soldiers were pulled out of Basilan after an investigation conducted by US military officials.

"They sent their own personnel here and conducted an internal investigation over the incident," Clemen said.

Another source confirmed that the five US soldiers left Basilan on July 22.

"If it wasn't for the media, the incident might not have been disseminated and their duty here would be prolonged," the source, who requested anonymity, said.

During the convoy of the local band, which started evening of July 2, the US soldiers were initially cool.

But they started to become unruly as the hours progressed, according to Wadih Muhtamad town Mayor Abdulwadi Anwar.

They also molested the singer of the band and even mauled her in their quarters, Anwar, who was at the event, said.

It was only through the intervention of other Filipino soldiers that the female singer was saved.

The US soldiers also challenged a Filipino Marine officer to a fist fight.

Brig. Gen. Eugenio, acting spokesperson of the US Embassy in Manila, said the incident "is not enough that what took place in Isabela City was a misjudgment between US and 1st Marine service members that ended within minutes."

She said in the investigation conducted by the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines, "no evidence of provocation or inappropriate behavior by US service members" had been established.

She said the results of the review would be shared with the Western Mindanao Command.

But Anwar disagreed with Mangrobang.

"It was not a simple disagreement. They were abusive," he said. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

SHOW OF FORCE Members of the Special Forces of the Philippine Navy show their might when interrupting a boat full of terrorists during an exercise on counterterrorism and rescue operation held at the Davao Gulf.

13 fishers nabbed in Taganak released

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The 13 Filipino fishers arrested off Taganak Island in Tawi-Tawi on July 17 were Filipinos, contrary to earlier reports they are Malaysian fishermen.

Chief Supt. Bienvenido Latag, police director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the 13 crew of FB Maslina were arrested for violating fishery laws.

He said the crew was nevertheless unwilling from the boat on July 17.

It turned out they were unloading ammunitions to transfer to the waters off Turtle Islands.

Also recovered from the crew were 20 bricks of ready-to-use dynamites, four sacks of ammonium nitrate, three and a half sacks of unmixed empty fuse bag, a compressor unit, two small reconstructed barges loaded with about 70 kilos of dried fish and 75 kilos of fresh fish.

Latag said the fishermen had since been freed. He said instead of dumping them for violation of the fisheries law, local officials only made them serve pay a certain amount in penalties.

"But I don't have any idea how much they were charged for their violations," he said.

Latag said the Taganak police had reasoned out that jailing the fishermen was cumbersome.

"There's no room, no detention center, and the highest official in the land is the mayor, so they decided to settle it there," he said.

In Taganak, Tawi-Tawi police chief Senior Inspector Rodito Mitra told the Inquirer that the fishermen, including a 7-year-old boy, would be released once to their families.

"In doing so, perhaps the relationship between Sandakan and Taganak will be better again," Mitra said.

Mitra earlier told journalists the fishermen would be charged for violating Republic Act No. 8550.

The fishing boat is registered to Malaysia with Mdi. Hail bin Zakki as owner and to the Philippines under Sandakan (Kpli. Corp., said Mitra.

Sabah authorities said the 13 are Malaysians but Mitra countered they are Filipinos.

Inquirer counted the 13 in Tagalog who among them are Malaysians. They said "none."

Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao; with a report from Inquirer.net

American, 4 Pinoys latest victims in rising robbery-murder incidents in Angeles City

By Jun Pluig
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—A retired US Air Force man, his Filipino wife and five bosom buddies have become the latest victims of a crime wave that has apparently been targeting foreigners in this city.

Chief Insp. Leanlee Iao, commander of Police Station 4 here, said American Albert Mitchell, 70, his wife Janet Arellano, 53, and Isabel Rojales, 29, Mariana Prado, 26, and Silberto Galli were killed by a lone robber inside their house at 38 Manuela St. in Honeyville Court subdivision in Barangay Malabanias here on Thursday.

Investigators said three of the victims were shot at close range with a silenced 9-mm pistol, as several spent shells and deformed slugs by cal. 9mm were found in the crime scene.

Police and Criminal Investigation and Detective Group operatives identified the suspect as Mark Dizon, a computer technician, who was initially said by the house helpers to

INQUIRER Visayas

An amazing walk in a (mangrove) park

GIANT mangrove trees flank the eco-park footpath.

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Bujay, Aklan

NESTLED and kept largely hidden in Barangays Bagtongbato and Naiman in Bujay town in Aklan is a vast and rare mangrove forest that has enchanted residents and mystified scientists and conservationists.

The mangroves have drawn hundreds of tourists since the Barangays E. Bujay (Bilangon) Forest of Bujay) Eco-Park or BEF was launched on Jan. 08.

The 44.22-hectare park, 36 kilometers north of the capital town of Kalibo and 30 km from Caticlan, the jump-off point to Boracay Island, is home to one of the most diverse mangrove forests in the Philippines.

Twenty-seven of the 35 mangrove species in the country are found there, says retired scientist Jacqueline Primavera, manager of the Community-Based Mangrove Rehabilitation Project in the Philippines (CMRP) funded by the Zoological Society of London.

"This is very rare and shows the extent of diversity," Primavera says. In a 15-meter stretch, all four species of the Avicennia mangrove are present.

The mangrove forests have captivated scientists and researchers because the area has remained largely pristine while others, including similar forests on Panay Island, have already been cleared for fishpond use, especially in Iloilo and Capiz provinces.

"Thirteen years after it was first spotted by scientists, the area is still preserved. This is remarkable," Primavera says.

Historic resistance

Primavera, cited by Time magazine among its "Heroes of the Environment" in 2008 for her contribution to mangrove coastal protection and mangrove conservation, says most of the research done for the "Handbook of Philippine Mangroves," published in 2004 which she coauthored, was done in Bujay.

Mangroves provide coastal communities with marine products and nurseries for fish, shellfish and wildlife habitats. They also serve as buffer and protection fields for typhoons and floods.

But Primavera says mangrove areas in the Philippines have declined from some 500,000 hectares in the early 1900s to only 100,000 ha today.

Residents of Bujay, including those in Bagtongbato and Naiman, have paid little attention to the mangrove forests until scientists and researchers revealed the natural gem.

"We had looked at them as like any other tree or forest," Teodorico Ingeilla, Bagtongbato barangay chair, says.

Most of the residents in the two coastal barangays depend on fishing for their livelihood. Going into mangrove areas, when bad weather would make it too dangerous in streams not farther to fish, they would turn to the mangrove forests for shells and crabs.

"It is only recently that we have become more aware of the importance of these trees," Ingeilla says.

But long before climate change and global warming became a worldwide concern, people living in the Bagtongbato-Naiman basin had already shown resistance to environmentally harmful development activities.

In the 1990s, they physically blocked bulldozers and men with chainsaws who were starting to clear the forests for conversion to fishponds and croplands. As claimants to the land, they were also fearful that they will lose their livelihood when the forests would disappear.

While this advocacy is largely unknown to the younger generation to the villages, Ingeilla says they are grateful in their efforts for protecting the forests.

Researchers of the Bulalacao Watershed Asian Fisheries Development Center-Aquaculture Department (SeaFDec-AQD), including Primavera, first took notice of the pristine mangroves of Bujay in 1996 while conducting field work there.

This was followed by a series of further researches, researches, consultations, training sessions and workshops with the community and the local government.

In 2008, the municipal government led by Mayor Abelardo Miraflores and supported by the Ilea Fellowship Program funded the first segment of the footpath from the barangay road to the mangrove area. Implementation of the CMRP was also started.

The Ilea Fellowship Program in Marine Conservation based at the University of Miami in Florida is geared to individuals and teams globally who are working to protect and preserve marine species.

Landmark ordinance

On May 26, 2009, the municipal council of Bujay passed the landmark Ordinance 92 declaring the 44.22 ha of forest in Bagtongbato and Naiman as mangrove ecotourism park. The law prohibits the cutting of trees in the area and imposes some fines on violators.

This paved the way for the construction of a reception center and extension of the first walk, including a 470-meter bridge by the municipality, a 120-meter bridge leading to century-old trees by people's organizations, and another 80-meter bridge funded by the ISLAMRP.

"The construction of the 800-meter first walk has made the mangrove area easily accessible to the public and they can better appreciate what scientists and environmentalists are saying and getting excited about," Primavera says.

A foreign guest in the eco-park had told residents that the 30-minute walk along the forest pathway was like being transported to "Avatar," the groundbreaking 3D sci-fi epic about the clash of humans with giant blue-skinned creatures living in mammoth trees.

Visitors are treated to a seemingly endless canopy of mangrove trees of many species, sizes, shapes and ages.

Several times, the pathway is blocked by outgoing branches of mangroves and guests have to stop now or bend low to continue their walk. Those areas are marked with reminders "watch your step" or "watch your head" or "bug out" for branches that leave little space to pass.

Mangrove species along the path are identified by their species, family, scientific name and local name. User guides also explain basic information about the species and how to identify them.

The trail leads to the old

TOUR GUIDE Benito Lim gives information on mangrove species along the footpath.

TREE branches blocking the footpath make the visit more fun.

THE ECO-PARK'S main attraction, the magnificent "bangalon" tree, stands at the end of the 800-meter footpath.

trees, including the biggest and oldest tree in the area, an Avicennia rumphiana, locally as apiapi bangalon, that is 65 feet tall and with 25 feet in circumference girth.

Primavera says the tree is 200 to 400 years old, adding that the growth of the species is extremely slow.

The eco-park is managed by the community-based Bagtongbato Fishery[illegible] Association (BBA) and Naiman Mangrove and Aquatic Organization (NMAO), says Basilio Bayajo, CMRP community organizer.

It charges P10 entrance fees for local guests and P20 for foreign tourists. Proceeds are used to maintain the park and pay for the salaries of 21 staff members, including 14 tour guides and caretaker, all residents of the two barangays, according to Bayajo.

Tour guide Bertha Lila, a barangay health worker in Bagtongbato, says she attended several three-day training sessions on leadership, management, gender sensitivity, conflict resolution and other topics in preparation for her work.

Bujay Councilor Plaridel Ibildizan, chair of the municipal tourism council, says the eco-park has brought more tourists and generated employment for residents. Since its opening, around 2,000 guests have visited the place.

"We are proud that in our two barangays, we have this unique forest and we have become aware of the significance of the eco-park and the need to preserve it," says Cohen Ibildizan, BMMO secretary.

Residents who explained why the forests have remained pristine all through the years readily oppose the commercial fuel that spirits are guarding the trees. Several wood-laying their way in the forest after they were intensely drawn to the trees.

This belief has kept trespassers and tree-cutters in bay for fear that the spirits might turn against them.

(The inquirer, chair interested may contact the Bujay Tourism Council, (036) 288-2023 or 288-2034, the Community-Based Mangrove Rehabilitation Project in the Philippines (CMRP), (032) 336-4431, mangrove_prof@yahoo.com.)

ISSN 0116-2642 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 25 No. 229

OPINION

Gall

IN THE sometimes quaint argot of congressional deliberations, lawmakers usually refer to themselves as "This Representation." For the sake of accuracy, party-list Rep. Mikey Arroyo should refer to himself as "this representative."

The former Pampanga congressman insisted back to the House of Representatives as the representative of the party-list group Ang Galing Pinoy. Mikey Arroyo, a certified millionaire twice over with a net worth of more than P180 million, not counting a house in California that he did not disclose in his statement of assets and liabilities, claims to represent security guards and tricycle drivers. He said his mother, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, grabbed his seat so that she could still exercise some powers after she stepped down from the presidency. Mikey Arroyo probably would not give anyone in such hostile employment the time of day. Nothing in his record as a vice governor or lawmaker indicates his slightest concern for them. But how little he knew about the words, the problems or aspirations of the group and therefore how poorly he would represent the sector in Congress apparently was the least of Arroyo's problems. All that mattered was that he would be joining his mother Gloria, his brother Dato and his uncle Ignacio in the House—in itself a perversion of the Constitution that prohibits political dynasties.

EDITORIAL

The Constitution reserves 20 percent of the total number of House seats or party-list groups to give voice to the marginalized and under-represented sectors of society. And who can better articulate the concerns of such groups than one of their own? Conversely, how can a sitting congressman, a scion of a world by family, a son of the former president, someone who has lived a privileged existence presume to represent these underprivileged groups?

It takes a lot of gall to persuade oneself or the public as a representative of a group in which one does not belong, and Arroyo obviously has it in abundance. But it takes an equal amount of gall to legitimize such a claim, and the Commission on Elections doesn't lack it either. Earlier this week, the Comelec en banc voted 4-2-1 to let Arroyo sit as the representative of Ang Galing Pinoy by dismissing a petition to disqualify him. The four election commissioners who voted for Arroyo—Nicodemo Ferrer, Lucenito Tagle, Elias Yusoph and Armando Velasco—said a party-list nominee "need not be marginalized so long as he is a bona fide member of the party organization whose members are marginalized and underrepresented." They also claimed that Arroyo "adhered" to the group's advocacies.

However, Commissioners Rene Sarmiento and Gregorio Larrazabal, who disagreed with the majority decision, pointed out that the Supreme Court had ruled that a party-list representative should belong to the sector he represents. Sarmiento said it was "common knowledge that . . . Arroyo does not belong to the marginalized and underrepresented sectors."

That Supreme Court decision (in Ang Bayani v. Commelec) very clearly states that the nominee of a party-list organization must himself "belong to marginalized and underrepresented sectors." The decision, written by Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, explains why: "Surely the interest of the youth cannot be fully represented by a retiree; neither can those of the urban poor or working class, by an industrialist. To allow otherwise is to betray the State policy to give genuine representation to the marginalized and the underrepresented."

Earlier, the Comelec's First Division, composed of Sarmiento, Larrazabal and (curiously) Velasco, echoed the Court's reasoning when it disqualified the two nominees of a party-list group representing small entrepreneurs because one was a big businessman while the other was a major stockholder in some big companies. But it seems that other commissioners were either ignorant of the law as interpreted by the Court or simply chose to ignore it for reasons all their own. Either way, they have no business staying further in the commission. There are strong grounds for removing them by impeachment. Congress should get on it.

As for Arroyo, his disqualification should be a foregone conclusion if the Court would only follow established jurisprudence. But the public can never be certain with a judicial body that has been called the Arroyo Court.

Publisher **Isaac Belmonte**
Editor in Chief/VP for Opinion **Jenny Mondoy**
Managing Editor **Joe Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Margarita E. Blanco**
Assistant Editor for Readership **Rosanna R. Torres-Lopez**
Opinion Editor **Juan V. Mercado**
News Editor **Antonio T. Enriquez Jr.** • Chief, Page One Operations **Nelly R. Pichon**
Chief, News Desk **Ruben D. Almario Jr.**
Assistant Chief, Photo Desk **Raymund Fernando Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan F. Sevedra Cruz**
Editor in Consultation **Antonio Zumel**
Chief Photographer **Ernie E. Sabellano Jr.**
Art & Design Director **Ismael A. Villafuerte**

Board of Directors **Isaac R. Belmonte**
President **Alexander Poeto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Ernesto R. Romero**
Vice President for Advertising **Pilar R. Gloria**
Vice President for Info Tech and Business Dev. **Gary G. Lim**
Vice President for Finance **Jose R. Valencia**
Advertising Director **Manuel Antonio R. Francisco IV**
AVP for Marketing **Jennifer S. Rodriguez**
Corporate Affairs Manager **Edward R. Malasaga**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no copies of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or stored in a retrieval system without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Blindsided Ombudsman?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE EXCLUSION of a United Nations finding on violation of human rights, in the new impeachment complaint vs. Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez?

For the first time, an impeachment charge goes beyond domestic issues like a 12-peaceful convention rate, or acting as boomer for former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and then to charges that the DTI-Unaffiliated advocate to election computers.

The top three articles in the March 23 UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) findings that the Ombudsman relinquished the case on Navy Ensign Philip Andrew Pestaño's murder also placed Ombudsman Gutierrez on the UNCHR Blacklisted List.

The Ombudsman recognized, in August 2007, the need to further investigate the brutal murder. "Some steps took place," the UN noted. Gutierrez refused to even meet the victim's parents—Felipe and Evelyn.

"It's a waste of time to investigate further," said Ombudsman Annie Desierto, equally criticized for taking a slow-delay stance.

Not so, said the UNCHR. "The State party is bound to conduct an investigation and establish that there is no impunity ... The Human Rights Commission ... is of the view that the Philippines has breached International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

Government should report within 180 days from receipt of the findings (early April) "what enforceable remedies and solutions were taken." Suddenly, four police probers appeared at the home of Pestaño's parents, asking belated questions.

Felipe and Evelyn Pestaño are principal complainants in the impeachment. Former Malacañang spokesman Ricardo Puno Jr. has also been tapped. Rep. Edcel Lagman and Rep. Gen. Danilo Lim are co-complainants.

Pestaño went through Attorney and Philippine Military Academy (Class 1992) with him. He was 23 years old when found dead in MCP Barcelad City Mobile 14 hours, the Navy ruled suicide, case investigation.

The NBI and the military ombudsmen realized that Pestaño's classmates were then Senate President (and former Supreme Court chief justice) Marcelo Fernan, disconcerting how Rodolfo Mon the villainy on Navy ships he joked his smuggling.

Senate Report No. 400 dismissed the Navy and NBI whitewash. He was Hazingsized. Then shot to death while MCP Barcelad City streets dotted on a bicycle from and a half trip in Manila Bay. Nominally, the trip from Cavite to Roxas Boulevard just takes 25 minutes. Log book entries disappeared.

In compassionate, Pestaño refused to authorize the funding of 14,000 board feet of illegal hardwood logs in Cagayan. Part of the cargo was a gift of the governor (Leeny Muñoz) to the Regional Unit commander, Colonel Pio Carranza.

"Orders from above" unraveled Pestaño. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources certified the logs were suspected to Cambodia on Sept 25. But the boat, that day, had already docked in Cavite. The logs promptly vanished. Somewhere, spotless clean trees appeared.

Pestaño backed the profiling of high-powered weapons, bunker fuel and loading of drums. "We're received phone calls," Pestaño's parents warned. "They'll kill you." The energetic reply: "Kawawa ang bayan (Pity the country)," would Fr. James Reuter, SJ.

"The character of Mr. Gutierrez, bone-fragments or other human remains is physical evidence more eloquent than a hundred witnesses," the human report said. Pestaño was blindgassed, then shot to death somewhere else in the country.

It is impossible for a person, who sustained a fatal head injury, to walk from some other place to his room, lie on his bed and drop dead. "The attempt to make it appear Pestaño killed himself, inside his stateroom, was elaborate." The Forensic paper said. "No one person could have accomplished it by himself."

There who did? (c. Lt) Carlito Antonio (PMA Class '96)? He unconfirmed as close to mystery as Judge Crispin Baltazar. "Strong evidence linked him to the crime as the possible gunman," then senator-now-Manila Mayor Fred Lim declared in a privilege speech. Antonio was not a crew member of USS Barcelad City.

Attorneys become scarce since then. The Pestaños have received many threats. "To date, as like the others, (Antonio) got off scot-free," Lim hinted. Was there an intelligence officer who also boarded in Cavite?

Budget Justice Cabin admitted urging Ombudsman Gutierrez to withdraw. This surprised with evidence, Lim protested. Cabin "was not even discharged administratively."

Four commanders: Capt. Ricardo Cardenas and executive officer lt. Rafael Aquia left the Navy. 1022 Senator Villanueva signed Pestaño: "Cause to be inspected in more than 20 sacks of rice aboard the ship, Lim revealed a week after Pestaño's murder. Villanueva was "allegedly misinformed, easy to accomplish."

Ensign Alvin Patrón was scheduled to visit the Pestaños in parents. "He was also a victim of an unresolved homicide," Lim said. The vessel's radio operator (CO) Fidel Sagayno vanished when he was summoned to testify.

"Hindi ko po maramit ipinagdiin kun niya ang duty operator (I know he knew a lot because he was the duty operator)," Sto. Tomas wrote, seeking to close Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz.

With Lozada's efforts to trace her husband's whereabouts is hinged off by the (blind) date. Her Inquirer a "silenced without leave," is the ombudsman's absence desperately.

"The Pestaños can present a very strong case against the Ombudsman because it is non-political," says Rodgrel Angeles who helped the Ombudsman shepherd their complaint through the UNCHR. Said the victim is a Philippine Navy officer—and civilian—the subpoena."

An international document, the UN report buttresses the credibility of the indictment against the government, as state party—and the Ombudsman which "handled the ball for the Philippines."

* * *

Email: jaumbermail@gmail.com

Integrity?

GET REAL

Sedfrey Cadiao-Hontanosas

IT IS a pity that President Aquino's campaign platform, encoded exhaustively in his website, the tag line was not preserved, in a more available form. What remains is his campaign slogan, his logo, his pit-bay and a short message flashing on and reminding us that we're all in this together, and that we, the people, are his strength. A good message, but I sincerely hope that the platform is retained, to serve as a constant reminder, to him and to us, of what he intended to do and how he intended to do it.

What can be clearly worked about that platform are his criteria for choosing his official family. Competence is certainly one. There were necessary conditions, although apparently (as he disclosed later), not sufficient. There were other qualities—such as familiarity, or similar ethos that would make for a comfortable working relationship—but (hopefully) only to help matters along. One kind of person who had greated the first hurdle of competence and integrity.

No one can quarrel with that.

But as the saying goes, between the cup and the lip there's many a slip. And it is becoming apparent that in some cases, the basis of criteria of competence and integrity notwithstanding, that is an "and" situation, not an "or" situation—seen left by the wayside.

A case in point is that of Angelito A. Alvarez (AMA), who was appointed to the Bureau of Customs previously upon the recommendation of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima (and no surprise, businessman Ben Lim, AMA boss—AMA membership in Alabang Country Club was at an exclusive of one of Lozo corporations. Lim is one of the Hyatt 10, also closely associated with Purisima).

What is the case about? In a nutshell, AMA was suspended from his membership at the Alabang Country Club for six months, and was banned from playing in the annual Shangri-La Tournament for five years. For cheating, together with the other three players in his flight, during this year's tournament, held last February. The other Alabang member in the flight was ousted out the same punishment, and the two guests are now banned for life from the club premises.

I am informed that the original thinking by the ethics committee of the club was to expel and not just suspend the two erring members—but worries about possible resulting expensive law suits prevailed. It is ironic that the Alabang Golden Association had no such constraints (they expelled two of the golfers (AMA) and his companion's). AMA's caddy is reportedly married to a driver in the Lim compound, also for dishonesty. The other caddies, who had developed what happened in their flight during the tournament, were suspended for six months.

In any case, the punishments were not carried out. While the two golfers were immediately disqualified from the tournament—turning in a wrong score card is ground for immediate disqualification, but does not necessarily imply cheating—it took four months for the process to be completed. The ethics committee investigation (which involved asking AMA and the other Alabang members to explain their behavior) and board action.

One would have thought—given the President's and the country's drive for competence and integrity—that AMA, after learning from hotel guilty of cheating/dishonesty, would withdraw his name from consideration for public office, to spare the President from embarrassment.

But no, he and his backer, Purisima, seem to have decided to hunker it out—alternately push pushing the seriousness of AMA's offense and claiming that AMA had no fault—issuing statements that contradicted the findings of the club.

Purisima, for example, was quoted by media as saying: "Sir [Ben] explained it and said it was an unfortunate incident. He is an experienced golfer and he saw who cheated was his flight mate." If that is how Purisima makes a judgment, the country is in big trouble. He is a golfer, and should know that in golf (unlike tennis, the players score for each other—the player announcing his own score for the ruling to score down. The players then review the scores and before signing them, do whatever adjustments they deem necessary. Otherwise, if scoring 8 or 9 strokes under their handicap, that has to be the product of collusion, rather than of only one cheater.

In fact, it was not about an "unfortunate incident" in our book, the ethics (lower caddie and club "committee as both, may agree any honest (or, kabit mahiya sa kaso." Or that the caddies were instructed outright to score down scores lower than the actual.

The second line used by Purisima—as the effort that "it is more important to look at his performance (assessed) rather than his golf scorecard" is as facetious as any stonewalling statement by the various administrations, which the Hyatt 10 hold so much in contempt.

Add claims that it was he who appointed the tournament committee that he judged a wrong scorecard because of one "gamble", or that he does not really like the game and only plays to entertain clients. These assertions, according to independent sources, are false, incredible. his caddies was reportedly not a client, but a colleague in the Lim companies.

The best testament to the gravity of the offense is that businessman Bicky Vaneta fired his executive who was in the flight. AMA, on the other hand, was appointed to head the Bureau of Customs.

It seems to me from the above that we are dealing not only with a (Santo) but with a liar. This is integrity?

Aren't 50 hunger surveys enough?

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

HOW MANY surveys are needed before the gravity of the Philippine hunger problem is recognized by the government and other institutions, domestic and international, professing concern for the economic well-being of the people?

Last Wednesday's Social Weather Stations report [1.1 percent of Filipinos experienced involuntary hunger in the three months prior to being surveyed on June 25-28, 2010] was the 50th in a continuous series of 1991 surveys of hunger that started 12 years ago.

The 1991 estimate was that 15 households were done rarely a year in 1986-1991, and then four times a year from 1992 to the present. In July 1998, stimulated by numerous newspaper accounts of hunger journalism in Mindanao, 1991 used cost-saving household bench in its quarterly surveys. That is why the 1998 survey was done by even more experimental hunger in the past three months, without having anything to eat?" Those who answered yes were then asked: "Did it happen only once, a few times, often, or always?"

The Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey data do period found 8.9 percent of families declaring that they had suffered from hunger involuntarily. There were 5.7 percent who said it happened once or a few times—which we termed "moderate hunger"—and 3.2 percent who said it happened often or always—which we termed "severe hunger."

Such numbers, if describing unemployment, would cause much concern, but they pertained to hunger, a much more painful situation! SWS decided to keep asking the hunger question in its omnibus surveys, not realizing that it would discover hunger growing in some areas. Hunger has been a core Social Weather indicator ever since.

Hunger rose to 9.7 percent in the next SWS survey, in September 1998, and then to 14.5 percent in November 1998. The simple average hunger rate of the three 1998 surveys was 11.0 percent. By how much would it have to fall thereafter in order to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the hunger rate between 1990 and 2015?

The hunger-MDG. Halving a hunger rate was 11.5, breaching 20 for the first time. In 13 surveys from then to the present, it reached 20+ six times, including the last three consecutive surveys, hitting the record high of 24.8 in December 2009.

■ The new June 2010 hunger rate of 11.1 percent corresponds to an estimated 2.4 million families. Of these, 800,000 suffered hunger severely, and 1.2 million suffered it moderately. This is the warning point of the Aquino administration.

Some readers are not more optimistic or pessimistic. They're impatient. They expect their hard steps reliably. They have nothing to lose by telling the truth, and nothing to gain by telling lies. They tell SWS interviewers the truth about their own hunger, as they tell the truth about their own votes. Similarly, they tell honest inventory officials about their own stocks. They tell their employers and underemployment. Builders should testify the numbers by conducting their own surveys.

What next? I pray that future state of the nation addresses will no longer trumpet about GDP (GNP) since Philippine macroeconomic growth has been impotent against hunger. The only macro variables found, so far, to affect hunger by 1.0 percentage of statistics and economics Gemma Mapa, who has done time-series analysis of the SWS hunger data, are food-price inflation and underemployment. That hunger rates are largely driven by the sticks down also is no better than wishful thinking.

For the very promising Conditional Cash Transfer program, one can see that a mechanism for scientific monitoring and evaluation is being put in place. There is reason to expect the ever-spreading reports to be made public.

On the other hand, for all the billions of pesos that the National Food Authority spent—all budget action data—to import rice, it seems to have made no effort to monitor the effects of its massive importations. As far as 30 SWS surveys can tell, most people evaluated by 80% are viewed the hungry.

• • •

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph

Hunting down writers

YOU DON'T see a bunch of writers in hunter garb on streets. Where you do, you won't know that they are what they are. That's because they've learned the cardinal rule when worshipping the written word. Never tell the truth about what you do for a living. (This goes for most writers; apply as if you're one of them, you poor dears.)

When I first set up my stall, people ask what it is they write about. Oh, lord no. Half, if only that's what most people think about.

Because more often than not, a little thought is behind the form at the back of their heads and go, "Hey, what if they're writing about me? What if this very [name] watching me?"

Ismail Quen

won't see to those pesky writers, oh yes, they are.)

Inevitably they express the opinion that to write is to expose of a life that everyone has to break open and finds out. You know, there really is nothing to that. It's all in the head, the somewhere of the world. Growing some based on a life that doesn't make sense at all! Having a success rate of one manuscript out of 1,000 spending months and years on writing insignificant letters to express "I am happy!" as a way that hasn't been done before. Or, if it has, it's been done in verse, with a job description like that? I'm telling you, writers aren't sane. Never were. They watch people. They remember things. Things that should have gone the way of the mastodons.

Anyone with a head, a tongue and pumping lungs is for game to converse with a pen and a piece of paper. Relatives, lovers, secretaries, people who are barely acquaintances. Not science. "Why," asks the writer, "should you exercise the ones who just borrow a few bits and pieces of people they know? (I just took your name, your hair color and the way you dismiss and make that talking a kind of, that's it. Scout's honor.)"

At the very beginning, when I'm still a writer, a constant need for validation. To be read. To be thought about. To be cried and raged over. To be applauded. It usually goes away after a couple of years—if you're still at it, of course. But what if it doesn't? Well, you should stay friendly.

Sure, quitting is the easiest thing. Until a resignation letter is in your hand. Such is a life. Then it's time to tear to road. Crash your laptop on the laundry basket. No proof of anything more; no severance pay. A hell of a lot easier than starting.

The ones who stay though, eventually wind up with a little thing on a plastic shelf, all wrapped up and ready to be read. It's external, yes, because for most, to be called a writer is to have your work read. "Hey, you're really a writer, yeah? Where's your novel/article/dissertation/poem that'll rip a slip from the institution?") But it's not. It's staying. Writing despite staying unpublished. Writing despite the nods and knowing smiles. Writing despite the dirty dishes, the unsightly piles of laundry, the moldy roach. It's staying there, back to chair, and bleeding words on paper.

Writing's a disease, in ways the enlightened, something you can't switch off to a stop. A case of faulty wiring, or a defect built into the system. There's a lot of pretentious trash to wade through out there, but this is part of the obedience. Writers write because they can think of nothing else. There's nothing else.

And, yes, this lazy bum is watching you. See you in paperback.

Kristine Cruz, 28, is in an "in between" phase, asking time-off from school and what's going to remain her audience at The three-hour College in England this coming school year.

Twenty-three again

YOUNG BLOOD

Kristine Cruz

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something set. Send to...

*Astrid Quen

Where Mikey fits and belongs

AT THEIR first commissioners to affirm the wish that the Commission on Elections cannot be really muzzled. I do not know what "spin" descended upon the four commissioners to rule that Mikey Arroyo belongs to the marginalized sector of security guards.

As reported in the Internet, Mikey in his role as Pampanga representative did not file even a single bill for the benefit of security guards. It is a really big surprise to know that Mikey, after all, belongs to the marginalized security guards. Mikey for heroes as representative of the "birthing fair" (barangay).

—CARLITO S. ARIS, Jr.
lbc_bloc@yahoo.com

Don't single out GSIS for comprehensive audit

MR. ROPE Roman M. Sanchez—who we understand is the national president of the National Food Authority Employees Union—is not emotionally demeaning the intelligence of President Aquino. Sanchez urged the new chief executive to subject the Government Service Insurance System to an audit, purportedly to check on the veracity of its financial performance.

Perhaps, Sanchez is just too aware that the GSIS, like all government agencies, is subjected yearly to a robust audit by the Commission on Audit. Perhaps, Sanchez is not aware that all the financial successes of the GSIS come with a clean audit by the COA. Perhaps, too, he is not aware that amid the financial successes are successes in handling that in 2009 alone, the GSIS was able to disburse about P40 billion in claims which is another record for the fund.

Still, if only to afford the new President with a fresh look at things, the GSIS has no qualms about a "comprehensive financial and operational audit." But such audit should go further. It should include all government-owned and -controlled corporations, like the GSIS, National Food Authority and others.

—ELLIS F. VILLENEUVA,
vice president,
Public Relations and
Communications Office,
Government Service
Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City

P-Noy's admirable flow of thought

ALTHOUGH it few days have now passed since the event, I can't help congratulating President Aquino on how he conducted himself during his first press conference.

Kudos are due him for his admirable flow of thought—the "ahs" or "eh" or hesitations—showing the masterful grasp of the various issues confronting him.

Whether you voted for Mr. Aquino or not (sorry to say I didn't), there can be no doubt that our economy is in extremely capable hands.

—MANUEL MANUEL,
anthonmanuel@yahoo.com

Readers to miss Justice Cruz's column

I FELT sad and was very cast upon learning that one of my favorite columnists, former Supreme Court Justice Isagani A. Cruz, was omitting his write-up column due to poor health. (Inquirer, 6/15/10)

I have been an avid reader of his columns, which I enjoyed for their candor and daring, besides being informative and straight to the point. He made my day whenever he was in his fighting mood. And there were the rounds I always read his columns in the classics.

I never personally met Justice Cruz. But I consider him one of the few writers in our country today with a style of his own. His refutations were without its flashes, language and were easy to understand. He is totally other columnists who are grandiloquent. His formidable pedestal his columns as he shared his views on matters concerning the well-being of our nation. So did his sense of humor which I assumed the more He had on hand: satiric abuse regarding carriage rides, hijacking and narcotics, but he would give credit where credit was due. Even Ching so are more principled and patriotic Filipinos like him.

Now I wish to hear from him again as a columnist, and I daresay countless people of like sentiments be touched with his mighty pen down the corridors of time. I wish him good luck and the best of health, and may the Almighty God give him more blessings in the days to come.

—MANUEL B. DE LA PEÑA,
former assistant
district engineer, DPWH;
and former
Bombong Village,
Barangay Tangandican,
Quezon City

On your CLARK, get set, go!

Grab our seat sale to many destinations!

Sale Period: Jul. 23-26, 2010 • Travel Period: Sep. 1 - Oct. 31, 2010

DOMESTIC SEAT SALE

₱499 Cebu to Bacolod, Boracay (Caticlan), Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Clark, Davao, Dipolog, Dumaguete, General Santos, Iloilo, Legaspi, Ozamiz, Puerto Princesa, Siargao, Surigao, Tacloban, Zamboanga or Pagadian NEW!

INTERNATIONAL SEAT SALE

₱1,499 Clark to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore

₱1,999 Manila to Jakarta

DOMESTIC

₱648 Manila to Coron (Busuanga), San Jose (Mindoro), Tuguegarao or Virac
Cebu to Cagayan de Oro

₱748 Manila to Bacolod, Caticlan, Catarman, Cebu, Iloilo, Kalibo or Tuguegarao

₱888 Manila to Laoag, Legaspi or Puerto Princesa

₱988 Cagayan (Lubefeld), Tacloban or Tagbilaran

₱1,188 Manila to Boracay (Caticlan), Dumaguete or Roxas

₱1,288 Davao or Iloilo or Zamboanga

₱1,988 Manila to Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calbayog, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamiz, Siargao, Zamboanga, Pagadian or Surigao NEW!

INTERNATIONAL

₱1,499 Manila to Kota Kinabalu or Taipei

₱1,999 Manila to Guangzhou

₱2,499 Manila to Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh or Macau
Cebu to Hong Kong

₱2,899 Manila to Brunei NEW!

₱2,999 Manila to Bangkok or Singapore
Cebu to Singapore

₱3,499 Manila to Kuala Lumpur

₱3,999 Manila to Incheon or Shanghai
Cebu to Busan or Incheon

₱4,999 Manila to Beijing NEW!

INTERNATIONAL

₱5,999 Manila to Osaka

Seat allocated is one way. Limited availability. Fares are exclusive of government fees and taxes. Fares are non-refundable. Flight changes must be made more than 24 hours before scheduled time of departure. No Lite Fares are available upon booking for guests arriving without check-in baggage. Add ₱100 to fare upon booking if booking with check-in baggage. Link approved terms and conditions of carriage apply and are available online at http://www.cebupacificair.com/Pages/Publish.aspx?pageid=terms_and_conditions.htm. Call (02) 70-20-365 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Cebu Pacific accepts APBL International Visa Electron debit payments through BDO.

Cha-cha by 2013 on P-Noy's initiative, yes!

IN ITS July 8 editorial, the Inquirer declared it was the wrong time to consider Charter change, and gave three reasons in effect.

There was no mandate given to President Aquino to change the Constitution, the election term means opposition of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's failed Cha-cha impetus which she, as a representative, has revived its proponents. It would be difficult for us President Aquino whose priority should be to push his legislative agenda. Better to have his proposed commission study the need for Cha-cha, and to effect the change in connection with the elections in 2013.

As an advocate of constitutional and institutional reforms I regard as urgent and long delayed, I believe on hindsight that former President Arroyo's Cha-cha initiative from 2005 onward suffered mortally from serving apparent ploy in fact, by the initiative method of a non-existent assembly without the Senate, or by a People's Initiative, and therefore from wrong timing.

I agree that 2013 or the latest would be a good time for a national plebiscite on this proposed constitutional amendment.

I strongly believe that it is due primordial duty of P-Noy to initiate policy and institutional changes in our Constitution by asking Congress to decide this idea. He need for a consideration of a referendum to consult the people on the question includes the Charter change is a supreme act of the national leadership. The President's legitimacy and popular trust will make his initiative to change the Constitution welcome and not subject to suspicion.

A constitutional convention would be the most acceptable mode of Charter change because of lingering distrust of Congress and the formidable difficulties of a People's Initiative.

In our peculiar and historical system Presidents, his historic initiative would enable him to leave a major legacy of basic institutions. And also, he would be reversing irate flaws in the 1987 Constitution, also known as the "Cory Constitution."

We can then be hopeful and confident that in due course our reformed executive-legislative and political institutions will lead our country to sustainable political, economic and social development and reconciliation.

—ANG I. ANG, IV
IV professor emeritus of
Political Science and
Public Administration

FIAN's misinformed, irresponsible allegation

THE LETTER (Inquirer, 7/6/10) of Rally Ray Alguito of the Southern Tagalog Alliance of Agrarian Reform Advocates (STAFA), FIAN's associates, is complete and hence irresponsible.

The Supreme Court decision in 2008 regarding the Pole Executive Proclamation No. 1959, a longstanding marquisate farm ordered to an ex-Dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos, Jr. Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac Province, ruled that the landowner "should have exhausted remedies available under the authority of the agrarian reform secretary, considering that the case [which was for declaration of nullity of coverage]" was first filed before the regular courts.

Taking the advice of the Supreme Court in the same decision, the regular PCIB Entrepreneurs, who are qualified agrarian beneficiaries, filed before the Department of Agrarian Reform in Region III. Infinite confusion proceedings against these lawful decided by the DAR Regular Division as beneficiaries, but who are not qualified—among them, fishermen, tricycle drivers, upperclass from Cebu, Bohol, Bicol and Cotabato as well as nonresidents from other Negros municipalities, and owner operators with more than 50 hectares beyond 5-hectare since clearly do not fall under the category of landholders contemplated under Sec. 22 of Republic Act 6657 or under the Constitution, and there are other regular farm workers or financial bank workers who are barred from having a "substantial on the basis of the land."

This case is now pending before the office of DAR regional director Nicodemo Ferrer, who is by law the first level of authority tasked to take cognizance of cases involving agrarian law implementation (DIL).

To say therefore, that Ferrer "has been blocking the implementation of the Supreme Court order" shows that Alguito is not only grossly misinformed but is also downright irresponsible.

—ROBERTO B. BONOAN,
Ariba Polo Farm Workers Association,
Tanjay Negros Oriental.
ariba.polo@yahoo.com

Ferrer dares critics to file impeachment raps

By Kristine L. Alave

IMPEACHME? Bring it on.

This was the challenge issued by Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer on Thursday to lawmakers who had expressed interest to impeach him and three other election commissioners for voting to allow Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo to represent a marginalized group in the House.

Ferrer said the bayanan that he was ready to respond to charges "anytime, anywhere."

"Kung ano, hindi kasi ibato, I have represent myself," he said.

Ferrer said his critics had not done research or read the motion here and must decision on the party-list system. Thus, he said, their misunderstanding of the decision by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) was "incomplete."

Arroyo, a former Pampanga lawmaker, was unsure in an ongoing House representative on the following making him the fourth Arroyo in the House.

The three others are his mother, ex-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo; her brother, Camarines Sur Rep. Diosdado Arroyo; and his uncle, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo.

Partnership

Sen. Franklin Drilon has demanded the ouster of the three commissioners who authorized Arroyo to represent the Ating Galing Pinoy, a group that claimed to uphold the interest of security guards and drivers.

"They should resign or be impeached for their brazen display of partisanship," Drilon said of Ferrer, Lucenito Tagle, Elias Yusoph and Armando Velasco.

Meanwhile, party-list groups have also called for the resignation of the election commissioners and said they would oborne the Arroyo disqualification case to the Supreme Court.

But Ferrer said he had no problem with that. "I welcome it," he said, noting that it was the right venue to challenge the commissioners' decision.

The controversial disqualification case of Arroyo has divided the Comelec.

Ferrer, however, said Arroyo could very well represent a marginalized sector in the House despite being a wealthy politician from a powerful political family.

But Commissioners Rene Sarmiento and Gregorio Larrazabal dissented, saying a party-list representative must belong to the marginalized sector.

They said allowing Arroyo to represent Ang Galing Pinoy was a betrayal of the party-list system that was established to expand the participation of underrepresented sectors in lawmaking.

Comelec Chair Jose Melo did not take part in the voting. In past interviews, he said it was not necessary for a party-list representative to come from the marginalized bloc.

No influence

Ferrer denied allegations that members of the former First Family had influenced him and other commissioners.

Sources at the Comelec said remarks number had phoned some of the commissioners to inquire about her son's case, but Ferrer said this was a "falsity."

"We decide on cases according to the law. We don't care who benefits or are prejudiced by it," he said.

Ferrer, who wrote the consolidated resolution of the commission en banc, said the party-list law did not state that a party-list representative must be a member of the marginalized sector.

The law only covers the election system-list group, he said.

Ang Galing Pinoy also submitted complete documentation to the Comelec, he added.

Noynoy gathers forces

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday met with a broad coalition of parties, led by his Liberal Party at the Iloilo Shangri-La Mactan Resort and Spa to discuss the upcoming 14th Congress convening on July 26.

"Of course," Mr. Aquino said when asked if he was happy with the attendance of 213 legislators at the event, including lawbiz Marcos of Ilocos Norte, Maceda Pangilinan of Batangas and JV Ejercito of San Juan City.

Incoming Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said that he had hinged a broad coalition of between 220 and 230 lawmakers in the 287-strong House of Representatives.

He said the coalition was made up of members of the Nacionalista People's Coalition, the Nationalista Party, Partesa ng Masang Pilipino, Lakas-Kampi, and other parties for groups.

Mr. Aquino said it was up to former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to attend his State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday, July 26. He said he preferred not to be there.

Mr. Aquino confirmed he met with JV ornamental pastor day but refused to say if the meeting would affect the fight for the Senate presidency.

"Let's just wait for Monday," Mr. Aquino said.

Old foe offers to testify on 'sins' of Merci

From page A1

impeachment case filed against the embattled Ombudsman.

"Time is civic and moral duty to speak," said Villa-Ignacio, who accused Gutierrez of being behind the alleged moves to harass and threaten him out of office.

"If even I'd be subjected to insults, I'd just tell what [happened] how the office was damaged by unsound policies," he said.

According to him, he did not testify in a previous impeachment complaint against Gutierrez in 2009 because he was still with the Office of the Special Prosecutor at the time, and did not want to be accused of having an interest in her post.

Institution destroyed

He believes his testimony would help in the impeachment complaint as he was a witness to the work style of Gutierrez, which he said he did not like.

"I was there from day 1. There was [a] balance and maintenance of institutional mechanism, and it was effective," he said.

Another impeachment complaint was filed against Gutierrez earlier this week, the first in the new administration. She is accused of, among other sins, illegally acting on cases involving former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and those close to her.

The complainants—which include a former party-list representative and nongovernmental personal condition, an accused businessman who is out on bail and the parents of a dead Navy ensign—also drove in Gutierrez's supposedly "dismal" track record,

VILLA-IGNACIO: I have a civic and moral duty' to speak.

also stopped the programs that he was running as Special Prosecutor. This continued in offering awards for good performances as well as conducting seminars to train prosecutors on dismissal examination and the like. He said Gutierrez subsequently offered to employees programs on garden, ng, massage and cosmetology.

Villa-Ignacio, who led the prosecution team that successfully plunder conviction of deposed Philippine Joseph Estrada, noted last February Honasan leaders last

But Villa-Ignacio's last years in office were turbulent. Personalities allied with Gutierrez filed complaints against her over a decision to waive passports for the victims of Typhoon "Milenyo." He cited harassment in the media.

He said Gutierrez had it in for him after he publicly criticized the successful prosecution for plunder of the former Armed Forces comptroller, retired Gen. Carlos Garcia, to the strong annoyance of Malacañang.

No damage

Sought for comment, Villa-Ignacio's successor, Special Prosecutor Wendell Sulit, said Villa-Ignacio was free to testify since he is now a private citizen. But the alleged lawsuit of the Ombudsman.

Sulit said the Office of the Ombudsman was not a damaged institution and did not think the policies that Gutierrez has been implementing were wrong.

If there had been mismatching norms, the employees themselves would have risen up against the Ombudsman, she said.

"We are doing well in the Ombudsman. Maybe that's just my opinion," she said. "I don't want to get involved politically."

Sulit also said that the docs were records to show that Gutierrez achieved high conviction rates. She said there was a time when the two had gone up to 65 percent.

And if the rate had gone down at times, it was because there were also factors in the cases that were beyond the control of the Ombudsman, she said.

Sulit also said that the training programs for prosecutors have continued.

As for the gardening, she said Gutierrez just wanted to encourage the employees to make good use of an adjacent vacant lot.

Wanted: 200 'aspins' for Coast Guard's K9 unit

From page B1

"As long as they meet stringent standards that are required of K9 unit search," Tarnate told the Inquirer.

Of the 114 working dogs in the PCG inventory, only 12 are on active duty," assigned to the agency's drug-enforcement nationwide.

"They're deployed to the country's busy ports and potential tourist destinations. They're part of the government's stringent measures to curb drug-related activities also including CCTVs, X-ray and walk-through machines, open-door searchers and non-manifests," he said.

Dog IDs, badges

Unlike many of their foreign counterparts, the PCG's working dogs never yet to be outfitted with bullet-proof vests, if not issued official badges and IDs.

But "it doesn't mean they are not important. In fact, we consider our K9 unit one of our assets," Tarnate said.

He credited one of their working dogs and their handlers for last week's seizure of P100 million worth of cocaine in Eastern Samar.

"Our operatives have joined police forces in scouring the coastal towns in Bicol province for a still unaccounted 1.5 tons of cocaine reportedly dumped off the coast sometime in December by an unidentified Chinese vessel," he said.

KEEL, MT, MD: Dogs, dressed up like their owners in caps and sunglasses, beg for votes in Manila on Thursday.

K9 accomplishments

Other notable accomplishments of the PCG's K9 included the recent confiscation of explosive devices at the Batangas City port and also at a Pier 15 in Port in Lucena City; assorted firearms, also in Batangas; and illegal drugs in Boracay, Aklan, and at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Tarnate said they "need more K9s to help secure our ports and terminals, areas that are vulnerable to the illegal traffic of drugs, as well as explosives."

According to the PCG chief, the command wants "at least 150 explosive-detecting dogs and 50 drug-sniffing dogs."

Tarnate said the PCG base at K9 handlers were "multiplied ... They are not only labourers and escorts and rescue specialists. They are also as marshals, environmentalists and lighthouse keepers."

Being well-trained, they are able to meet our K9 mission demands with a reasonable degree of success," he said.

No irregularities

In a related development, the PCG said there were no irregularities involved in the commission, acquisition of working dogs in 2003.

"Of the 114 dogs in the Coast Guard inventory, only 24 were procured through the funds provided by the Philippine Ports Authority when the K9 unit was activated," explained Lt. Cmdr. Allen Balangin, K9 unit head.

According to Balangin, "the other dogs were acquired through donations from PCG officers and other personnel, people in the local shipping industry and some friends of the command who wanted their pets to be trained."

"Add to that the offspring of the donated dogs through our K9 breeding program," he said.

Counting dogs

Last week, the Commission on Audit (COA) commanded a full accounting of the PCG's K9 unit, instituting the P6-million acquisition cost for its imported breeds.

"It is unfortunately that the PCG's K9 unit is successful, not only in its training component, but also in its breeding program," noted COA Director Wilmia Flores Encallado.

Encallado, however, said it was "evident that there was no proper accounting for the dogs since the adoption of the K9 unit."

"The number of dogs has increased by more than 100 percent but it has recorded subservicable the same in Bantayan," she pointed out.

The COA reminded the PCG that "offsprings of animals should be recorded at prevailing costs in the industry."

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 851 Muñoz St., Manila, Metro

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National (Nationality)	Position
ARAMEX EXPRESS PHILIPPINES INC. 2/F Pan Pacific Bldg., 444 EDSA Ext., Barangay Pio del Pilar, Makati City	Michael Anthony Gabriel (American)	Area Regional Finance Manager
PHILTIC INC. 7TH & 25TH Enterprise Center, Tower 1, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Sumedharmo Mulia (Indonesia)	Manager, Operations
Sigit Pangestu 3 EP/SSC Plaza Tower 2 Ayala Ave., cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Sigit Julio Digbo (British)	Director, Global Asset Optimization
SHANGHAI ELECTRIC GENERATOR ENGINEERING (PHILIPPINES) CORP. #12 Annapolis St., cor. Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Shaohua Chen (Chinese)	Manager
TOYOTA CAMIYA CORPORATION 2/F 6766 Ayala Ave., 1200 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yoshimi Ito (Japanese)	Finance Manager
J-SOCIAL PHILIPPINES, INC. 23F Enterprise Plaza, HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Anthony Hugh Paul Lebesbeet (British)	Field Team Member
KANTAR INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 28/F Fairmeyer Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hsiang Fan (Chinese)	Customer Service Representative
SK SHIPPING MANAGEMENT (PHILS.) INC. Unit 1402 Peak of the Orient Tower Condominium, 1360 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Soohee Lee (Korean)	Chief Manager
AIR CHINA LIMITED (MANILA BRANCH) 1103 Intel Platinum Tower, #156 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Linda Qu (Chinese)	Country Manager
AIR CHINA LIMITED (MANILA BRANCH) 1103 Intel Platinum Tower, #156 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Ruo Liang (Chinese)	Station Manager/Airport Manager
AIR CHINA LIMITED (MANILA BRANCH) 1103 Intel Platinum Tower, #156 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Jingdong Fan (Chinese)	Training Supervisor
AIR CHINA LIMITED (MANILA BRANCH) 1103 Intel Platinum Tower, #156 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Hongling Yu (Chinese)	Maintenance Manager
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES, INC. Building F, 5th Corporate Office, Mind Way Blvd., Bldg. Complex City	Meaghan Blake (Australian)	Manager, Service Delivery
TWO PHIL INVESTMENT HOLDING GROUP, INC. 14/F Peoplity Sterling , 4th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Haiping Zhang (Chinese)	Network Administrator
TWO PHIL INVESTMENT HOLDING GROUP, INC. 14/F Peoplity Sterling , 4th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Huangde Xu (Chinese)	Office Supervisor
TWO PHIL INVESTMENT HOLDING GROUP, INC. 14/F Peoplity Sterling , 4th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Yong Wang (Chinese)	Office Supervisor
TWO PHIL INVESTMENT HOLDING GROUP, INC. 14/F Peoplity Sterling , 4th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Jun Wang (Chinese)	Interpreter
TWO PHIL INVESTMENT HOLDING GROUP, INC. 14/F Peoplity Sterling , 4th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Yuan Gao (Chinese)	Interpreter
TWO PHIL INVESTMENT HOLDING GROUP, INC. 14/F Peoplity Sterling , 4th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Jin Sun (Chinese)	Office Administrator
TWO PHIL INVESTMENT HOLDING GROUP, INC. 14/F Peoplity Sterling , 4th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Weiwei Wang (Chinese)	Network Supervisor
TWO PHIL INVESTMENT HOLDING GROUP, INC. 14/F Peoplity Sterling , 4th Ave., cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City	Yan Chang (Chinese)	Network Manager

If you have any information/objection in the above mentioned application, please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO C. AGRAVANTE
Regional Director

WESLEY SO—Commander-topper

Cautious So still shows way with draw

Cautious slot for wunda

1 GRENKE Chess Classic (July 23) 1. Svidler (Russia) 2. Caruana (Esp) 3. Anthony Stewart 2.5—1.5 Fischer-Lagrave Dreams 3. Ge Tianjiao (Chn) 4. Ivan Sokolov (Neth) 5. Kobalia (Ru-ssia) 2.5—2. Swidler (Ingush) 3.5—3 Eng Zhao)

HULL, ENGLAND—Filipino Grandmaster "Wesley So played cautiously with white and settled for a draw with GM Parimarjan Negi of India to keep the lead after four rounds of the 2010 Hull Young Grandmasters chess championship Thursday.

So and Negi, the two youngest participants in the 10-player category—17 years, 7 months and 22 days, respectively—agreed to split the point after only 26 moves of the Queen's Gambit Declined.

The Filipino, who remained on top with three points, half a point ahead of second seed GM Evgeny Tomashevsky of Russia, third seed GM Sebastien Carreza of Italy and sixth seed Dmitry Andreikin of Russia.

Tomashevsky and Carreza drew their match while Andreikin subdued GM David Howell of England in the other notable fourth-round encounter to join within striking distance of the leaders awaited FIDE-appointed Yuan Bai-son, Carlos Negi, who became the world's second youngest GM of all time at 13 years, three months and 22 days, finally ended a three-game losing skein with his draw with So.

He was scheduled to meet Caruana in the fifth round on Friday. He then faces Tomashevsky to Saturday's sixth round before the tournament takes a break on Sunday.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Bazoli" Pichay said the rest of the field now "knows they have to beat Wesley to win the title, and they're playing him with a lot of respect."

So opened with the 1.e4, but Negi responded with the Orthodox Defense of the Queen's Gambit by declining white's temptation to capture on d5.

Experts said Negi's opening is one of the most reliable defenses to 1.e4 since it gives black a solid position and a foothold in the center. But a series of exchanges of the major pieces followed and left both players with one rook and few pawns each.

Seeing little prospect in the silenced ideational position, So agreed to a draw without rushing his 29th move.

Casas triumphs as leaders DQ'd

Salvador, 2 others come to grief on 18

By Mueng R. Castillo

MANOLO FORTICH, BUKIDNON—Caraban Casas fired a 3-under-par 69 yesterday and won the ICTSI Tuel Monte championship when the leading players in the final group were disqualified for violating a rule on the 18th green.

Casas was all set to drive off for Davao Luzviming than he had only finished third when he was called to receive the championship trophy, his first in the revived Tour after tallying a 54-hole total of 10-under 206.

With Elmer Salvador, Richard Sinfuego and Arvic Repunzon disqualified, first round leader Ildefer Bandoves (71) and Angelo Que (72) shared second at 209 with Antonio Lascuña (70) finishing fourth, outside behind.

"I didn't play that they be disqualified," Casas, a former PBA champion, said in Filipino of one of the rookies Golden were under Tour.

"But golf has its rules and we must play by them," added Casas, who had earlier rounds of 66-68 and started the final round trailing Salvador by two.

Salvador had the tournament won with a closing 69 when he was disqualified, along with Sinfuego and Repunzon, for an infraction of golf's Rule 33-7, which has something to do with "assisting fellow competitors," according to tournament referee Henry Ambrosio.

With the two playing in the third group from around the green, Salvador had to wait and put his putt to within six inches of the cup, existing bookchoos from the gallery.

Salvador went to his ball supposedly to mark it, but was asked by Hagonoy and Sinfuego not to since—purportedly—they could use the ball as guide when they play their respective shots.

"We are not saying that any of them deliberately tried to cheat," Ambrosio said. "But the rule says that they violated something. Hence, the disqualification."

Rule 22-1 states that in stroke play, "if the committee determines that competitors have agreed not to play a ball that might assist any competitor, they are disqualified."

Sinfuego would have finished second with a 69 while Hagonoy would have tied Casas for third with a 70.

Bandoves put a little pressure on Casas with a birdie on the 9M, however, bogeyed the highest finish of his young career after firing a 73 to tie Bernhard Isaac (72) and Antonio Monteverde (72) at 212.

"I was about to mark it, but Arvic told me not to," Salvador, the reigning BP Open champ, said in Filipino. "When pumilot na ko dun Arvic was there on the green and he didn't call my attention."

Cebu Country Club will next host the circuit, organized by Philippine Golf Tournaments, Inc., on Aug. 9.

Casas, a 42-year-old who posted strong finishes in the previous legs but never a winner here in the past two years, had five birdies and two bogeys.

SURPRISE WINNER Caraban Casas gets his maiden victory on the ICTSI Tour on a silver platter. AFP PHOTO

Title-hungry Sharks eye clincher vs Dolphins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THREE DOORS of a first-ever title, the Manila Sharks will be pulling all stops to finally clinch Baseball Philippines-Series in strike today.

And Manila team manager Jerbi Orbeso is aware that the Cebu Dolphins will be doing everything in his the Sharks and deny the best-of-three title series to the limit at the Felipe Rizalino Memorial Stadium in Tagaytay City.

"They are sure to make adjustments, but we have also made adjustments, especially in defense," said Palanca whose changes lost the Sharks 2-1 championship on Cebu rare years ago.

The Sharks (3-0) on three their title chances in Series 3 and Series 5, both in the Batangas finals.

GAME TODAY
(Tagaytay City)
8 a.m.—Tapay vs Pampanga
10 a.m.—Batangas vs Cebu (Game 2)

"Hopefully we can pull it off tomorrow [today]," said Orbeso. "The boys' morale is very high and they are well prepared."

Manila will open the 1:30 p.m. match-up with Erich Sacal in Mike Garcia, according to Palanca, who decided to gamble and "trust" Jorge Robles during the Sharks' 2-1 win in Game 1 last Saturday.

Also expected in the strong Manila Dolphins are national team ace pitcher Chan Ho Jabenzan and Mike Santiago.

Jabenzan had a shaky start in Game 1, allowing three hits and three runs in the opening frame.

The United Pelaneg is field in Robles, who dished out more than the maximum 75 pitches during the game, and made himself ineligible for today's Game 2.

Cebu team manager Jose Bautista said he is confident the Dolphins will bounce back today through's mission Joseph Orillana and Miggy Gervacio and the squad's rookie hurlers Lorenzo Obregon.

Hong seizes top Samsung Am Open plum

CHARLES HONG pounded on the last subpar of Arnies Mani and Park Jung-soo to pull off a three-stroke victory in the championship division of the Samsung Amateur Golf Open on Wednesday at the Eastridge Golf Club in Binangonan, Rizal.

Hong finished 3-under par 69 for a four-over par 76 in the difficult conditions and secured the win when Mani bogeyed the last two holes and first-round co-leader Park registered an 8 on the par-5 18th.

Hong, who had a 75 Tuesday, wound up with a 149 total, three better than the 152 of Mani, who also had a 76.

Park, scoring an 81-156, settled for fourth behind Ariel Villanueva, who also had 152 but lost to Mani in a countback.

Former juvenile Xiner Galicia ran away with a six-stroke victory in ladies' Class A. She carded consecutive best 73s for 146, an up on from del Rosario.

Jun Cueto edged past Randy Cabangon with a two-shot victory on the last hole in top Class B. He carded a 87-169 against Cabangon's 102-191.

Carlos Pinking (87-170) won Class C by four over Joel Ignacio (84-174).

Roger Tolosa Hagonoy was an interesting sidelight to the tournament this one played by Inquirer Golf, Glaxo Cup, a Round of Golf Circumnavigation International, International Armouring Corp. and BCDA Golf. Minor sponsors are Dynamic Sports and Leisure, Fitkids, Carrera Embroidery, ABN Lenses of Life, Castel Tinted Cargol.

Tolosa was being called for a playoff against eventual Class B champion Ben Libbun when the former voluntarily disqualified himself for a wrong entry in his first day scorecard. He had signed for an 81 instead of 82.

"Roger's honesty is welcome relief for us golfers at a time when cheating issues are plaguing the local golf scene," said event organizer Boy Blue Domingo.

The other winners in the ladies category were Annie Regoro in Class B and Ilio-nyd Crystal in Class C.

Anton posts tarmac, hillclimb coups

CARLOS Anton negotiates a sharp bend on the way to victory in the rough tarmac trials.

MULTI-STYLED CARLOS Anton scored wins yesterday in the third round of the 2010 Hillclimb Championship in La Union and the CJ Magazine Tarmac Event at the Clark International Raceway nearby.

Anton beat all 40 other drivers in the Hillclimb series, where he is eyeing a fourth straight title, to solidify his hold on the lead.

"It was a hard race and the weather did not help any," Anton, who set a stage record of 1:46.44 in the opening round last March, of his third straight win.

"The rains in the afternoon caused accidents but luckily, nobody fell off the mountain."

Anton captured the CJ Magazine Tarmac Event's individual championship over Jojo Villareste and Vicente Hizondo. They formed a field of 16, who all used the new Mad Drive 1.6-liter subaru of the Tuazon-Racing School.

His team with nephew Potholo trained a podium finish against rista other racers.

"It was fun racing with Dick and we gave them a real run for their money," said Anton, the Automobile Association of the Philippines Driver of the Year. Steve Silva, Contributor

SSC-Excelroof plasters Ateneo tossers for lead

By Cordell P. Tupas

SAN SEBASTIAN Baseball Batsmen in deep offensive second to overwhelm Ateneo, 15-33, 25-17, 25-24, Thursday night to seize the solo lead in the Shakey's V-League Season 7 second conference at the MICE Flying V Arena in San Juan.

That reinforcement Jeng Shadow were less found on hand dealt with competitive and moved on pest Stanislander Bienvenido Lee, scoring 18 points in the Lady Stags registered their third win in as many games.

The Lady Stags looked like they were in a hurry to dispose of the Lady Eagles in Hunks and Stanislaw Flores imposed their will at the net in the first two sets.

And though the Lady Eagles put up a tougher stand in the third set, they could do little to stop the Lady Stags, who also drew superb performances from Melissa Mirasol and Dalise Robinos.

"As much as possible we want to win in three sets so we won't have any rematch," said SSC interior finger Gervacio, whose squad took the win in just 68 minutes.

Mirasol, who finished with 11 points, and Robinos accounted for five of the Lady Stags' 10 blocks.

The loss dropped Ateneo to second in the company of Adamson and National U at 2-1.

Stags shuffle Cards; Bombers up

See page 4-B

The Stags held the Cardinals to just four points in the last 20 minutes and went on to gain a piece of the lead with the San Beda.

Calvin Abueva finished with 19 points that went with 12 rebounds and three assists, while Ronald Pascual contributed 17 points for the Stags, who prevailed despite shooting just 39 percent on the floor.

"We played really tough defense in the fourth quarter," said San Sebastian coach Ato Agustin, whose team held the Cardinals to just 14 field goals in the entire game.

Earlier, Jose Rizal University bucked out a 75-69 victory over St. Benilde to register its fourth straight win in five games.

Rayeon Gallegos, fresh from the starring lineup this season following the departure of former MVP John Wilkins, scored 14 points, half of them in the final period.

JRU coach Vergel Meneses, however, was unimpressed with his crew's form.

"Our offense was in disarray," he said. "We need to improve. We can't play like that against the bigger teams like San Sebastian."

The Bombers defied to make a single third goal in the last eight minutes.

Meanwhile, the NCAA management committee, acting on the recommendation of commissioner Atty. Ed Rosario, decided to declare San Beda's 86-71 win against Letran in the juniors division over Red Cub Elmer Amar's failure to wear the correct uniform.

It was Garcia's first loss in four games in juniors' action. Mapua stunned San Sebastian, 75-71, for its second win in four games, while JRU pipped La Salle Green 14-13, 92-90, to overcome to improve to 2-2.

Scores yesterday:
First Game
JRU (14 — Gallegos) 18, Rodriguez 15, Ramos 12, Mendoza 8, Ramos 7, Mendoza 6, Mendoza 5, Mendoza 4, Mendoza 3, Mendoza 2, Mendoza 1, Mendoza 0.
SAN BEDA (86 — Abueva) 19, de Guzman 17, Lim 16, Cabagnot 11, Ambrosio 9, Salvador 6, Abueva 5, Cabagnot 4, Lim 3, Ambrosio 2, Salvador 1, Abueva 0.
Second Game
LETRAN (69 — Gonzales) 18, Ramos 15, Mendoza 12, Mendoza 9, Mendoza 6, Mendoza 5, Mendoza 4, Mendoza 3, Mendoza 2, Mendoza 1, Mendoza 0.
MAPUA (75 — Mendoza) 18, Mendoza 15, Mendoza 12, Mendoza 9, Mendoza 6, Mendoza 5, Mendoza 4, Mendoza 3, Mendoza 2, Mendoza 1, Mendoza 0.

Nat'l poomsae tomorrow; 1,000 jins seeing action

PRACTITIONERS OF another martial arts event called "poomsae" will take the spotlight tomorrow with the staging of the Inaugural national championships at the Stony Aquino Stadium.

Previously, explains Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aranzaquiz coined "forms."

Participants in the event follow a choreographed sequence of memorized movements against an imaginary opponent or multiple opponents. It consists of movements using hands and feet.

Aranzaquiz says poomsae practitioners develop their sense of balance, speed, timing, coordination, and power in an artful, martial spirit or life force.

Organizing committee chair Sing Chua Hong expects about 1,000 competitors to vie for honors in three events—individual standard, team standard and individual synchronized.

The one-day competition, sponsored by Smart, PLDT, Philippine Sports Commission, Adidas and Nike, starts at 9 a.m.

Blu Girls eye routs in Jakarta tourney

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TEAM BLU Girls hope to snag a slot in the Guangzhou Asian Games when they compete in the Association of Southeast Asia women's softball championships in Jakarta on July 29 to Aug. 1.

Officials are confident that the Nationals would get automatic qualification to the meet in November with a victory in the event, which serves as the regional championship after the sport was shelved last year in the Southeast Asian Games in Laos.

The Blu Girls are the perennial champions in the region, but some members are now scattered around the world after the squad disbanded last year.

Still, Ateneo Philippines secretary general Tony Francisco said they still have the core players around.

"We, chances are that we will again win the championship only probably Indy—opposition. But, doing the feat by keeping the other teams from scoring and via abbreviated games, that would be the challenge," said Francisco, who, today's Knock-In Ramadyan session at the Sizzler Restaurants Parkr Fiesta.

The team is still stacked by multidecorated mentor Ana Santiago—of Arkansas University, Santiago entered the game for the 2007 SEA Games victory where the Blu Girls swept all matches in abbreviated manner.

Pitchers Dione Montes, Joy Lanzuela and Iyrol Ramos are holdovers in the squad along with Sherylen Valenzuela, Esmeralda Tayag, Lalu Magsuda and Sarah Agravante, according to softball operations manager Ian Ubiñas.

Gilmarie Ibañez, who missed out in softball competitions, will also suit up for the 19-and-under squad for the Blue Thunder Players in the iconic Thrifter-sponsored National Open.

Also heading up the team are Elma Pacoling, Mer Rolongo, Joan Pioquinto, backers Rizza Bernardino, Veronica Stellera and Julie Mack Mijares, younger dotel of softballer no. 1 pitcher Gilmarie Ibañez, who is already in the United States.

SEAG silver winner makes triathlon comeback

FORMER NATIONAL team standout Sandra Aurelio-Gonzalez marks her comeback effort in the 1st Tilting Long Distance Triathlon tomorrow as the Mandaluyong Beach Tennis and Hotel in Lian, Batangas.

Sonny Jopson, the champion in the 2013 Philippine Half Ironman, and Bid Cardi lead the veterans in the men's side of the grueling 2K swim-40K bike-10K run race.

Aurelio-Gonzalez, a former South-east Asian Games silver medalist, relinquished her title as the country's top triathlete two years ago to give way to younger national hopefuls.

The inaugural race, longer than the Olympic distance of 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run, will also feature a name of the-art timing chip.

"Participants can expect faster and accurate time results which seems to be indispensible because of the distance of the race," said Raul Cuevas, CEO of triathlon bike king and director of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines.

The MYLAPS Cycle ProChip System, a technology brought in from Australia, is used in international sporting events such as the Tour de France, UCI BMX and Olympics Road Cycling, according to Cuevas.

Age groups, what competitions and an open race are the other categories in the event expected to draw 200 participants.

The race kicks off with a three-loop swim leg at the San Bernice Resort, according to Mandaluyong event promoter manager Erico Vicente and marketing manager Jose Ubiñas.

The two-loop bike stage crosses the National Hi-way heading to Calamgan, before the turnaround point from Lian to the Hilton Properties. The foot race includes a dirt road near the mangrove and rice fields of Matabungkay.

Antonine M. Reyes

ATENEO and La Salle go at it again with the first of at least two meetings this season between the UAAP's fiercest rivals. AGILITY PHOTO

Ateneo, La Salle renew rivalry

By Jasmine W. Payo

TWO FIERCE rivals still grasping for their first Event Series clash in an early UAAP elimination today.

Ateneo and De La Salle last met earlier than usual this season in a blockbuster battle at 4 p.m. to test their young guns in the men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We're still a work in progress at this point," said Ateneo coach Norman Black of the Blue Eagles, the back-to-back champions still favored to repeat despite the graduation of former MVP Rabeh Al-Hussaini.

"We will try to find the players who will be productive for us. We're trying to establish an 11-man rotation and find out who can step up and compete at this level."

Both the Green Archers and the Eagles are shooting for their third triumph in four games.

La Salle coach Dindo Pumaren also said his rookie-laden crew expects more tough games ahead.

"We have to be more consistent," said Pumaren. "We have to concentrate on our defense and remain our aggressiveness and energy."

Earlier at 12 noon, a surprisingly competitive National University squad aims to record victory against the winless University of the East.

Ticket for today's event featured games were sold separately.

Idle for Ateneo, University, the season's first Saturday, earn the solo top spot after the Saturday stretched their

unbeaten run to three games.

The Eagles and the Archers are tied for second along with the University of Santo Tomas Tigers and the Adamson Falcons.

"It doesn't really matter what your records are going into a La Salle-Ateneo game," said Black. "It's going to be a tough game for us mainly because of the crowd."

The Eagles have drawn solid reconditioning from Nico Salva and Emman Monfort and a reserve breakout game from Justin Chan.

La Salle star Joshua Webb has yet to flash his typically fiery game, but Simon Atkins, Mark Villanueva, Jhan Mikoko and rookies led by Prospect Brandon have given the Archers a big lift.

Niños recover old touch, whip Ani-FCA five

EL LIBERTADOR ESPARTA Padada Cebu and Cebu Energy Drink arranged a championship match for the seventh leg crown in the tournament of the Philippines after disposing of separate foes yesterday at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym in Manila.

Stephen Padilla fueled an early run as the Niños tipped Ani-FCA, 19-71, for a 2-1 card on the final elimination day.

Padilla fired all of his 16 points in the first half, 12 from three-point range, to help the Niños convene a day after MP Grenen stopped their record 20-game winning streak with a 70-73 upset.

Ariel Mopera took over in the second half for a team-high 17 markers and 16 rebounds.

Cebu's Elmer Esperita also chose by walling the game-winner with the seconds remaining to lift the Fruitmen past MP Grenen, 53-51, in the second game.

The Niños, mentored by Topsy Alcantara, will shoot for their third crown today after riding two of the previous six legs of the tournament jointly organized by the PBL and Liga Filipinas.

"I told the team that it's okay if our winning streak ended [as long as we win the championship]," said Alcantara.

Jeannelyn M. Reyes

The scores:

First Game

B: LIGA-LIFE 2262 81 – Hayes 17, Padilla 16, Cruz 12, Bosco 8, Palapino 8, Tiatco 8, Raymundo 7, Alamani, Cruz 2, Santiago 2, Mondragon 2, Torres 0

ANI-FCA 71 – Elmer 16, Lanuzo 15, Antonio 11, Sevilla 8, Ani-Ani's Bonifacio 5, Sagandal 5, Agustin 2, Sevilla 0, Civil, Mendonoza 0.

Quarters: 22-6, 41-31, 58-48, 71-71

Second Game

CEBU 53 – Padilla 16, Lingat 14, Bitoon 11, Dantayan 6, Tenorio 4, Langgayan 2, Sabang 4, Abdon 2, Ephraim 0, Aquino 0

MP GRENEN 51 – Mendez 12, Bayawalo 11, Jumapao 10, Moreno 10, Ranch, Gallo 4, Bagol 2, Pascasio 2, T. Dandoman 0, Mendoza 0, Coronado 0, Nuñez 0, Dandoman 0

Quarters: 14-12, 28-24, 39-42, 53-51

Piccio misses Pinehurst QF

MEN PICCIO fluffed an eight-foot par putt on the 22nd hole and lost to Fraser Currie of Arizona in their Last 16 duel in the match play event in the 108th North and South Amateur Championship at Pinehurst No. 2 in North Carolina Thursday.

It was a nasty setback for Piccio, who looked to superb form when she bundled out Jay Kim of Virginia, 5&4, in the morning second round match. After finishing back with back-to-back birdies from No. 4 to draw level with Leroy to the early going then went 2-up with another birdie and a par on No. 7 and 8, respectively.

The big 6'3"H gold scholar set up a top-in birdie on the par-4 11th but Leroy came through with a superb approach shot from 140 yards that went in for an eagle, cutting Piccio's lead instead to one hole.

Both players gained the next six holes before Piccio missed the green on the 18th and made a bogey.

The three-other PCTC bets were knocked off right in the first round with Chilton Ikeda edging a 3&4 rout from Marino Alice, Brandon de la Paz dropping a 1&1 decision to Courtney Gaston, and Cyan Rodriguez losing to Marisa Brown, 4&2.

Buenavista gains Milo final

BUENAVISTA: Impressive time

TWO-TIME champion Edwardo Buenavista returned to the Milo Marathon finals after topping the Baguio leg on Sunday, nosing 20 other qualifiers to the national championship last this year.

Buenavista clocked an impressive one hour, 6 minutes and 36 seconds to top all 21K runners, besting runner-up Rene Herrera (1:07:42) and Emmanuel Sare (1:10:21), in Buenavista's 18-34 age group, also made the finals.

The 21-year-old Buenavista, who holds the local marathon record of 2:18:33 set during the 2007 Metro Manila elimination, did not defend his title last year to concentrate with his Southeast Asian Games preparation. He copped the gold in Laos.

Harry Tagoe submitted 3:33:35 and sets the lone qualifier in the 18-34 female division.

The oldest qualifiers were 68-year-old Benjamin Sebastian Sr. (1:44:21) and 66-year-old Brig. Gen. Rafaelito (1:38:43).

The 34th Milo Marathon Northern Luzon race lured 7,300 runners. It raised 140,000 of running shoes which were donated to students of Baguio City National High School, bringing the Milo shoe campaign's total to 7.91 pairs.

The next race is at only venue is in General Santos City.

Rommel S. Asoy

Sportswatch

Casimero stakes crown

BOXING OWNS are in for an exciting match today when Filipino Johnriel Casimero defends his IBO interim light flyweight crown against Ghanaian Ryan Lomotey Kitaba in a 10-round boxing spectacle dubbed as Laban Mo Lang, to be aired on GMA Network.

The 23-year-old native of Ormoc City wore the IBO interim light flyweight title last December in Managua, Nicaragua, against Jesus Cuadrado of Colombia in an 11th-round knockout.

Casimero owns a 14-0, win-loss card with eight knockouts. The 23-year-old titlist is the current #10 International light flyweight champ with a 12-1-1 tally spiked with eight knockouts.

Laban Mo Lang will be aired via satellite on GMA Network starting at 9 a.m.

Shell chess gets going

THE EXPANDED 2010 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship moves to its fourth stage for the Southern Luzon elimination from July 27 to Aug. 1 at SM City Bagui's Event Center in Naga City.

Interested participants may download registration forms by logging on to www.shell.com.ph/chess, where inquiries can also be available at selected schools, chess clubs and municipal/provincial government offices and at various Shell-serve locations nationwide.

For details, call 09189880820, (084) 4760823, 09189880820, (082)8280802 or (02) 4000348.

300 athletes expected as nat'l wushu event blasts off

THE SEARCH for young wushu talents begins today with the holding of the 2010 National Wushu Championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Some 300 athletes from around the country will take part in the two-day event which will include competitions in taolu (forms) and sanshou (combat).

Wushu contributed one of four gold medals in the 2006 Doha Asian Games through Rene Catalan. The sport is also a strong medal prospect in Guangzhou Asian in November.

Philippine Wushu Federation secretary general Julian Camacho said Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada will appear as guests of honor during the opening rites at 9 a.m.

Taiwan is a former Southeast Asian Games silver medalist in wushu.

Students of athletes are not allowed to take part in the talent search to allow the fresh talents to shine.

Marc Anthony Reyes

DOCYOGEN

Docyogen eyes 8th victory

BOY "THE PLASHER" DOCYOGEN likes to bring his act somewhere else, but to do that he must retain first his pinweight crown against Jordan "Tanglit Boy" Ojer of Baguio today when they meet in the featured match of the Gab Ali-Universal Bradley Gordon Championships (UBCG) 39/8 at the A. Venus Evasion Hotel in Makati.

The 5-foot-3 Dinopuyos, who is hoping to get an invitation to see action in the Martial Combat in Singapore someday, will make his seven-game winning run against one of Baguio's most heated strikers.

"I have trained for almost three months for this fight, so I'm ready to face him. I haven't see him play but I will try my best to beat him," said the Lakay Wushu bet.

The other highlight in the 10-bout affair presented by Gab Ali and backed by Tribal Gear and Alcazar Pilco the welterweight showdown between Freddie Sanchez and Jeanette Real Jubbal.

Dubbed as "Sinner," action starts at 7 p.m. with UBCG founder and president Alvin Aguilar expecting a sellout crowd as in the past meetings.

Steve Silva, Contributor

MUSCLE TAPE®
www.muscletape.com
OFFICIAL THERAPEUTIC TAPE OF THE 2010 PHILIPPINE TEAM PGA

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa
SPORTS

TALK 'N Text guard Jimmy Alapag hounds Alaska counterpart and Game 1 standout LA Tenorio in last night's encounter.

Texters, Llamados recover, level series

By Cedelf P. Tupas

TALK 'N TEXT HOOK shooter Alapag's inspired play in the second half to pull off a 130-94 triumph over Alaska at the Araneta Coliseum last night that tied their PBA Florida Conference best-of-seven semifinal series at one game apiece.

Overwhelmed by his Alaska counterpart, LA Tenorio, in the series opener, Alapag bounced back mightily with a team-high 25 points in the last two quarters after the Fireping Stallions had enjoyed run-ner-ready 12-point clothes.

Alapag and Jason Castro kept Tenorio at bay on both ends and denied Alaska the glaring advantage that the Aces exploited in their 104-96 Milkmen victory in Game 1.

Castro, who was tasked to make sure that no point guards will not get outplayed by LA Tenorio's, said we did that," said Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes.

Later, Texter Wesley Matthews completed a three-point play off Gabe Freeman with seven seconds remaining in 8-Mag Derby Ace came from behind to clip San Miguel Beer, 95-94, to also level their semi-series.

Matthews tallied 23 points, including 13 in the final five minutes, while James Yap poured half of his 20 points in the final period as the Gunnedow bounced back from an 0-80-14 beat wagon Game 1.

"Sometimes if you don't give up, you get rewarded and we got rewarded tonight," said Derby Ace coach Ryan Gregorio.

The Gunnedow rallied from several double-digit deficits, the biggest of which was 18 midway in the second quarter, behind Matthews and James Yap, whose two free throws gave Derby Ace a (92-91) lead with 1:43 remaining.

The Aces threatened to break the game wide open in the first seven minutes as Joe Devance fired 14 of his 16 points in the first eight minutes to give Alaska a 20-12 lead.

"We wanted to clog the lane inside but the problem was Devance were wild in the first quarter," said Reyes. "I think the key for us was we didn't panic after his outburst. From there, it was a matter of playing hard."

The Texters recovered with a 20-0 run, capped by back-to-back baskets from Pyno Reyes, to seal the first quarter.

Alapag took charge in a rolling 13-2 run that propelled the Texters, who were playing their guards in Alapag, Castro and Reyes for most of the second half, to an 84-74 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

Alapag also dished out 10 assists as the Texters buckled the absence of starting guard Mark Cardona, who married his girlfriend, Catrina Ponsaran, yesterday.

Saving more Filipino lives by
Reducing Prices up to 40%
supporting the government initiative

	Dosage Strength	Old SRP*	New SRP*	Voluntary % Reduction (GMAP)
WARFARIN Sodium Coumadin®**	1.0 mg	34.25	20.55	40%
	2.5 mg	43.55	26.13	40%
	5.0 mg	59.28	35.57	40%
Methimazole Tapazole®	5.0 mg	10.50	6.85	35%
Glucometamine Glocudiamine Nicotinamide Ascorbate Jetepar Capsule®	50's per capsule	16.00	12.75	20%
Jetepar Syrup®	60 ml	264.45	211.75	20%
	120 ml	481.75	385.40	20%

*Suggested Retail Price

** Warfarin requires doctor's prescription. Careful patient monitoring is essential in maintaining an accurate level of anticoagulation. When taking this drug,careful management of patient's dosing, diet and lifestyle is necessary. Avoid alcohol intake. Discuss with doctor all medicines and herbal supplements you are taking which may interact with warfarin.

INVIDA

Invida Philippines, Inc.
26/F Phil AXA Life Center, 1286 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., 1200 Makati City Tel: +63 2 8872403 Fax: +63 2 8893710
www.invida.com

SSC's Calvin Abueva takes a turnaround shot off Mapua's Mark Acuña.

Stags shuffle Cards; Heavy Bombers up

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Aplus METRO
Editor Alejandro S. Ulanday

Multivitamins + Minerals + Ginseng + Royal Jelly + Korean Panax Ginseng
rogin-E
GETTING FREE FUEL, GOOD. GETTING FREE FUEL WHILE YOU ENERGIZE WITH ROGIN-E, BETTER.
ROGIN-E
Rogin-E Everyday. The Better Habit.

New woes for residents near oil leak

Makati deep well found with traces of kerosene; 6 others checked for content

By Nika Calleja

KEROSENE IN OUR WATER?

Authorities on Friday found a deep well that contained an odor similar to kerosene two blocks away from West Tower, that could give a clue to the oil leak problem plaguing the building's tenants and management for almost two weeks now.

Supt. Samuel Tadeo, Makati fire marshal, said the deep well on 2837 Cupcupin Street in Barangay Bangkal, supposedly a source of clean water, was reportedly reeking of kerosene.

Six other deep wells, also in Barangay Bangkal, were ordered shutdown by city officials.

Two weeks ago, a mix of gasoline and kerosene started to seep from the sump pit of the West Tower basement at the corner of Del Pilar Street and Osmeña Highway in Barangay Bangkal.

Authorities earlier suspected the oil pipeline of the First Philippine Industrial Corp. as the source of the leak. But after several days of digging, the FPIC found no leak.

The fire chief said he learned about the deep well from a contact Mr. Deng Ambassis are checking information that an area near West Tower was once the site of a gasoline station.

Various city government departments have joined hands to ensure the safety of residents surrounding the area, including West Tower tenants, some of whom evacuated the premises on orders of Makati officials.

Meanwhile, the condominium on yesterday faced a new problem as four feet of wastewater flooded the basement, causing a malfunction in the pump set in sewage treatment plant (STP).

Makati City Engineer Nelson Morales said that instead of having a separate pump for the STP to move wastewater to the drainage, the building management used a single pump for both the sump pit and the STP.

He also pointed to two other possible sources of the leak: A bottled oil tank that could be under the building or a gasoline station near West Tower.

Traffic rerouted in QC for Sona; classes suspended in select schools

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON City Police District will be implementing a traffic rerouting scheme on Monday along roads leading to the Batasang Pambansa Complex where President Aquino will deliver his first State of the Nation Address (Sona).

District director, Chief Supt. Benjamin Manante said the traffic rerouting will begin at 6 a.m. along Commonwealth Avenue and on roads near the Batasang Pambansa building.

To reduce the expected volume of traffic on that day, the Division of City Schools in Quezon City suspended classes in 19 public schools near Commonwealth Avenue and the House of Representatives at the Batasan Complex.

Schools Division Supt. Corazon Rubio said the suspension will cover 11 elementary schools and eight high school in Quezon City close to the Batasan.

Traffic aides and policemen from the QCPD Traffic Enforcement Unit will be on hand to guide motorists.

Northbound vehicles and those coming from Quezon Memorial Circle going to Fairview must take the U-turn slot in front of Jacobe building and use part of the opposite lane up to the U-turn slot at San Simon Street in front of the Commission on Audit building.

All vehicles must take the U-turn slot at San Simon Street (Riverside) to go back to the normal traffic flow towards Fairview.

Vehicles of very important persons (VIPs) with authorized tax passes will pass through the U-turn slot in front of St. Peter Church going to the Batasan-Pambansa Complex.

Overcrowding could be cause of MRT train breakdown

By Paolo G. Montecillo

OVERCROWDING was tagged as the most likely cause of the breakdown of a train on the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) system yesterday morning, causing delays for thousands of commuters dependent on the train line.

The MRT management said a malfunctioned train broke down at 8:30 a.m. while on a stopover at the Ayala Avenue station in Makati City, barring passengers to disembark.

The train was then pushed back to the MRT-underground depot in North Avenue, Quezon City.

"The problem was probably caused when passengers pressed the train doors from closing because they still insist on boarding even if is already full. As a result, the doors are now closed properly," MRT public relations manager Lynn Elancadio told reporters.

Electric motors

When this happens, the trains' electric motors also shut down, Elancadio explained.

"One of the safety features of these trains is that they will not run unless all the doors are shut," she added. "This is to minimize accidents, especially during rush hour, and may be that's why the engine failed."

Following the stoppage, Elancadio said the train had to be pushed by another train from the Ayala Avenue station all the way to the Quezon City depot on the elevated tracks.

As a result of the breakdown, operations at the MRT came to a halt from Taft Avenue in Pasay City to the Shaw Boulevard junction in Mandaluyong City, where the third set of tracks in between the northbound and southbound tracks is located.

The set is built precisely for emergencies such as what happened yesterday.

"Our technicians are now in opening the trains to find out what went wrong," Elancadio said.

Resumption

Train operations were resumed at 9:32 a.m.

Close to 500,000 passengers take the MRT train line daily, much more than its expected full capacity of 350,000 passengers a day.

The government has drawn up plans to double the MRT line's capacity to help cope with growing demand, although no concrete steps have yet been taken.

MetroBriefs

Manila cop, driver arrested for extort try

A POLICEMAN assigned to the Manila Police District and a tricycle driver were arrested before dawn yesterday for allegedly attempting to extort P40,000 from a tourist in Malate, Manila.

The suspects were identified as PO1 Dennis Posadas Jr., 40, of Barangay Bolinao Hills and Richard Bermejo, 36, of Santo Manila, Chief Insp. Benjamin Magalong of the Station City Police Commander Group investigation and detective management said that the policeman has been in the service for 10 years and is a patrolman of the Pandacan police station. The two allegedly tried to extort money from Michael Pacion, 20, of Batangas Saturday in exchange for his release on alleged trumped-up drug charges. Elements said the suspects were nabbed during an entrapment operation in around 1 a.m. in front of the Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Elements said another cop, identified as PO2 Edward Ilaterial of the Regional Capital Region Police Office, was also in custody.

Julie M. Aurelio

Reporter robbed, beaten up

A PEMBJ reporter was beaten up and robbed by two men on their way to her Las Piñas City home on Thursday night. Lucibeth Bonilla, 45, of Pamplona, Las Piñas City, was on her way home at around 7:30 p.m. when two men blocked her way and attempted to drag her to a vacant lot near Pamplona Heights Subdivision in Almanza II. The attackers took her to molesting her after grabbing her belongings, including cash, a cell phone and a bracelet, all valued at P45,000. They shoved and clouted her after taking my money and jewelry, Bonilla said in a police interview, adding the robbers were apparently drunk. Bonilla said no fight back but was left in the face several times. The victim has not really left after seeing an approaching passerby.

Nikko Dizon

Wall collapses in Caloocan City; 15 hurt

37 ROWS were brought down an old wall in Caloocan City yesterday afternoon, injuring 15 people and damaging 29 houses in Barangay 11-A. The wall is said to be the old perimeter wall of Manila Paper Mills and that the perimeter of Gelmore property which has been constructing a residential/commercial condominium in the area. Caloocan Mayor Recto Echiverri said because that the wall is adjacent to the Gelmore Compound. City Administrator Pioquinto Ramirez said some 30 houses or 92 families were damaged from the rainy night and/or surge as a result of rising floodwaters. About 15 people were treated for minor injuries. Echiverri said he ordered the demolition of the remaining part of the wall while investigators are looking into the cause of the collapse. "We want to see if there is negligence on the part of the property developer," Echiverri said.

Beverly T. Rabulan

Three SC employees in plagiarism scandal sacked

SUPREME court justices say Junior Mariano del Castillo, accused of plagiarizing the works of American legal experts in writing his decision on Rachel Yhu II sex claims, will stay "sorry."

But he will not resign.

Instead, Del Castillo has asked three court researchers who allegedly wrote the plagiarized decision to resign.

There was a time when Supreme Court justices had delusions.

That was the time when it was honorable to be a Supreme Court justice.

***

By the way, if I were a lawyer, I would be disbarred for writing the above statements.

But I'm not a lawyer, so the worst thing that the gods of

ON TARGET
RANDY DELFIN

Mr. Olympian could do to me is probably to silence lower court decisions finding this sentence guilty of libel.

You know, the gods of Mr. Olympus are also human and, therefore, capable of being petty.

***

Gracious Commissioner Ibarra-Abaniz has ordered the filing of charges against owners of two firms that have been smuggling into the country appliances and farm equipment from China.

The pairs of carry on the South Harbor and Manila International Container Port.

If drivers will dig deeper, he will find out that the smugglers could not have done their nefarious trade without help from customs personnel.

For example, how could those smuggled goods have gone past customs people manning the X-ray machines at the terminals?

The X-ray machines, which were acquired at an overprice (what else was new in the Aquino administration, anyway?), can detect valuable cargo inside containerized vans.

If Abaniz doesn't file criminal and administrative charges against customs personnel in cohorts with smugglers, his anti-smuggling campaign will be laughed at.

***

This column has exposed the scandalous customs (very instead cost: P400 million, including the 21 at the Armed Forces Officers Village church is ensured by a random official.

But my sources at the customs bureau, as well as at the Office of the Ombudsman, said no investigation is forthcoming from these officers.

That's guaranteed inaction. Thieves cannot investigate fellow thieves.

***

Civic-enthusiasts who are into the provincial shooting spree are invited to the two-day 2nd Nemesio Yabut Cup at Camp Karingal, Quezon City, today and tomorrow.

Proceeds of the competition will go to my battalion that takes part in medical missions to poverty-stricken areas.

Philippine International Trading Corporation dti

PITC

INVITATION TO BID

Supply and Delivery of One (1) Lot Brand New Rifle, Cal 5.56MM Carbine M4T2 and Grenade Launcher Module 40MM (M320) for the Philippine Navy
Philippine Marine Corps (PMP/PMC)
Bid Ref. No. 2010-034
Approved Budget for the Contract: P 15,218,750.00

1. The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) and the Philippine Navy, Philippine Marine Corps (PMP/PMC) intend to apply the sum of Fifteen Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Pesos & 00/100 Only (P 15,218,750.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be paid by under the contract of Supply and Delivery of One (1) Lot Brand New Rifle, Cal 5.56MM Carbine M4T2 and Grenade Launcher Module 40MM (M320) more particularly described as follows:

Item	Quantity	Description	Unit Price	ABC Delivered Duties Paid (DDP) (PHP)	Funding Source	Bid Security Cash, Cashier's/ Manager's Check, Bank Draft/ Guarantee, Irrevocable Letter of Credit (ILOC)	Bid Security (5% of ABC) Surety Bond (SB)	Cost/Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
1	10 units	Rifle, Cal 5.56mm Carbine M4T2	P 987,500.00	P 9,875,000.00	GAA 2010-4(23) 40-310-2(c) 20	P 148,312.50	P 493,750.00	10,000.00
2	1 unit	Grenade Launcher Module 40MM (M320)	108,333.34	1,214,422.00	GAA 2010-4(23) 40-310-2(c) 20			
Total Bid Price				P 15,218,750.00				

*Sixty Days issued and confirmed by local commercial or local Universal Banks

2. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected without opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

3. PITC and PMP/PMC now invite bids from eligible bidders who are authorized manufacturers/dealers/ suppliers/contractors for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) Lot Brand New Rifle, Cal 5.56MM Carbine M4T2 and Grenade Launcher Module 40MM (M320) (hereinafter referred to as "GOODS") the PHILIPPINE NAVY and the GOODS to be supplied within Sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed (hereinafter referred to as "Delivery Period").

4. A prospective Bidder should have completed within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, at least one (1) single contract of similar nature amounting to at least 50% of the ABC to the Philippine Navy.

5. Open competitive bidding will be conducted using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is also open to prospective bidders from foreign countries governed by R.A. 9184 and subject to commensurate Treaty, Bid Security Declaration and Post-Qualification Procedures and Award of Contract shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Revised IRR.

6. The bidding is open to eligible contractors, organizations, associations with at least sixty percent (60%) Philippine ownership or interest except when Philippine ownership or interest is waived pursuant to R.A. 9184 and subject to commensurate Treaty, Bid Security Declaration and Post-Qualification Procedures and Award of Contract shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Revised IRR.

7. The bidding is open to prospective bidders unless disqualified for the reasons of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and PITC website at www.philgeps.gov.ph. The complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on 8:00 AM, 26th July 2010 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for Bidding Documents pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB, in the form of cash or manager's check, duly issued and certified by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative upon presentation of proper identification documents.

8. The prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative shall attend the Pre-Bid Conference and/or to view or submit written queries or clarifications relative to this bid project. Bidder must first pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents on or before the date of Pre-Bid Conference.

9. The Schedule of Bid Activities shall be as follows:

ACTIVITIES	TIME	VENUE
1. Sale and Issuance of Bid Documents	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM only, Monday to Friday, starting on July 26, 2010	PITC Headquarters, Villa Space Executive Office Building, 1136 Timbaluan Street, Bahayang Pag-asa, Malate, Manila
2. Pre-Bid Conference (open only for parties who have purchased bid documents)	August 3, 2010, 10:00 AM	Executive Lounge, PITC Building, 1136 Timbaluan Street, Bahayang Pag-asa, Malate, Manila
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	August 17, 2010, 10:00 AM	5th Floor Conference Room, PITC Building, 1136 Timbaluan Street, Bahayang Pag-asa, Malate, Manila

10. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PITC Secretariat at 5th Floor Conference Room, PITC Building, 1136 Timbaluan Street, Bahayang Pag-asa, Malate, Manila from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM only, Mondays to Fridays, starting July 26, 2010 and/or 09189481910 loc. 216 however any queries and/or clarifications must be submitted in writing and the project requirements can only be issued to bidders who purchased the bid documents, not later than five (5) days prior to the Submission and Opening of Bids.

11. PITC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) MA. VICTORIA C. MAGCASE
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee I

Postdated to July 21 - 22, 2010 (09189481910)
PITC Website: www.philgeps.gov.ph & PITC Bulletin Board

Philippine International Trading Corporation dti

PITC

INVITATION TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Brand New Cbg. 60mm HE for the Philippine Army (PA)
Bid Ref. No. 2010-032, Rebid
(Previous Bid Ref. No. 2010-014)
Approved Budget for the Contract: P 11,753,610.00

1. The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) and the Philippine Army (PA) intend to apply the sum of Twenty Million Seven Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Eighty Pesos only (P 20,732,080.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be paid by under the contract of Supply and Delivery of Brand New Ammunition, Live, 60mm HE (hereinafter referred to as "GOODS").

Qty	Description	ABC Unit Price	ABC Delivered Duties Paid (DDP) (PHP)	Funding Source	Bid Security Cash, Cashier's/ Manager's Check, Bank Draft/ Guarantee, Irrevocable Letter of Credit (ILOC)	Bid Security (5% of ABC) Surety Bond (SB)	Cost/Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable cost)
4,000 rds	Cbg, 60mm HE	P 5,183.00	P 11,753,610.00	GAA No. 4(23) 40-310-2 (a) Trng 2010 (PMA) 40-310-2(c) Trng 2010 (Army) 40-310-2(c) Trng 2010 (Army) 40-310-2(c) 1st Qtr Trng 2010 (Army)	P 587,680.50	P 1,037,404.00	P 10,000.00

*Sixty Days issued and confirmed by local commercial or local Universal Banks

2. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

3. PITC and PA now invite bids from eligible bidders who are authorized manufacturers/ dealers/ suppliers/ contractors for the Supply and Delivery of Brand New Rifle, 60mm HE (hereinafter referred to as GOODS) for the PA, manufactured by Chemical Industries of the Philippines, Cebu Industrial Factory (CIFI) (hereafter days after receipt of Notice to Proceed (hereinafter referred to as "Delivery Period").

4. A prospective Bidder should have completed within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, at least one (1) single contract of similar nature amounting to at least 50% of the ABC to the Philippine Army.

5. Open competitive bidding will be conducted using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is also open to prospective bidders from foreign countries governed by R.A. 9184 and subject to commensurate Treaty, Bid Security Declaration and Post-Qualification Procedures and Award of Contract shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its Revised IRR.

6. The bidding is open only to Local and Foreign manufacturers, dealers, foreign manufacturers but if so, recommended by a complete Philippine based company with current and valid Notice License to Deal in Firearms and Ammunition for sale to the AFP/Licensed by the Philippine National Police (PNP) Firearms Explosives Office.

7. The Schedule of Bid and Allocation of Responsibility may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and PITC website at www.philgeps.gov.ph. The complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on 8:00 AM, 26th July 2010 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for Bidding Documents pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB, in the form of cash or manager's check, duly issued and certified by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative upon presentation of proper identification documents.

8. The prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative shall attend the Pre-Bid Conference and/or to view or submit written queries or clarifications relative to this bid project. Bidder must first pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents on or before the date of Pre-Bid Conference.

9. The Schedule of Bid Activities shall be as follows:

ACTIVITIES	TIME	VENUE
1. Sale and Issuance of Bid Documents	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM only, Monday to Friday, starting on July 26, 2010	PITC Headquarters, Villa Space Executive Office Building, 1136 Timbaluan Street, Bahayang Pag-asa, Malate, Manila
2. Pre-Bid Conference (open only for parties who have purchased bid documents)	August 3, 2010, 10:00 AM	5th Conference Room, PITC Building, 1136 Timbaluan Street, Bahayang Pag-asa, Malate, Manila
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	August 17, 2010, 10:00 AM	5th Conference Room, PITC Building, 1136 Timbaluan Street, Bahayang Pag-asa, Malate, Manila

10. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PITC Secretariat at 5th Floor Conference Room, PITC Building, 1136 Timbaluan Street, Bahayang Pag-asa, Malate, Manila from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM only, Mondays to Fridays, starting July 26, 2010 and/or 09189481910 loc. 216 however any queries and/or clarifications must be submitted in writing and the project requirements can only be issued to bidders who purchased the bid documents, not later than five (5) days prior to the Submission and Opening of Bids.

11. PITC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) MA. VICTORIA C. MAGCASE
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee I

Postdated to July 21 - 22, 2010 (09189481910)
PITC Website: www.philgeps.gov.ph & PITC Bulletin Board

SK chair nabbed for teen's murder

By J.L. Andrade

POLICEMEN arrested before dawn yesterday a fundamag chairman (SK) in Caloocan who allegedly stabbed to death a fellow teenager Thursday evening in Manila.

Manila Police District-homicide section head Chief Insp. Erwin Marquez Jr. identified the suspect as 19-year-old Michael John Dionisio, an SK official of Barangay 418 Zone 23 in Sampaloc, who allegedly killed Aries Tolentino, also 19.

Tolentino died hours later at the hospital as negotiations where he was rescued for a knife wound on the left side of his chest.

The suspect allegedly attacked Tolentino, with whom he had been engaged in a brawl, and stabbed the teenager while he was down.

Bloggage said Gad before the incident, Tolentino and his girlfriend, Jessica Tagalbo, were walking along G. Suarez Street when someone identified only as "Andoy" made rude comments directed particularly towards Tagalbo.

Tolentino then confronted Andoy and asked him to apologize for his girlfriend. Instead of apologizing, Andoy punched Tolentino until he dropped on the pavement. Dionisio, reportedly a friend of Andoy then joined the attack and stabbed Tolentino.

After fleeing from the scene, police caught the suspect in his house.

Venezuela breaks ties with neighbor Colombia

India develops world's cheapest 'laptop' at $35

NEW DELHI—India has come up with the world's cheapest "laptop," a touch-screen computing device that costs $35.

India's Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal this week unveiled the low-cost computing device that is designed for students, saying his department had started talks with global manufacturers to start mass production.

"We have reached a threshold approach[ed] today that today, the combination of the internet, broadband connectivity and the Indian Institute of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science.

India speaks about three percent of its annual budget on school education and has improved its literacy rates to over 64 percent of its 1.2 billion population but studies have shown many students can barely read or write and most state-run schools have inadequate facilities. Reuters

CARACAS, VENEZUELA—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has broken diplomatic relations with neighboring Colombia, accusing the close US ally of fabricating reports that Colombian rebels fled safe haven inside Venezuela.

Soaring already poor relations even more, Chavez said on Thursday that he was forced to sever ties because Colombian officials were by has failed to move against leftist rebels who allegedly have taken shelter on Venezuelan territory.

At a meeting of the Organization of American States in Washington, Colombian Ambassador Luis Alfonso Hoyos presented photos, videos, satellite intelligence and maps of what he said were rebel camps inside Venezuela and other challenged Venezuelan officials to let independent observers visit them.

Chavez responded within hours, suggesting that his conservative Colombian counterpart, outgoing President Alvaro Uribe, could be attempting to provoke a war.

Neither Chavez nor his Colombian ambassador directly responded to the Colombian challenge to let people visit the alleged camps. But Chavez insisted Venezuela does everything possible to prevent members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the smaller National Liberation Army from crossing into Venezuelan territory.

In Washington, Hoyos said that roughly 1,300 rebels are hiding out in Venezuela and he showed Jellow diplomats numerous aerial photographs of what he identified as rebel camps inside Venezuela.

He said Colombia's government last repeatedly asked for Venezuela's cooperation to keep guerrillas from slipping over the 2,200-km border that separates the two countries. He said several rebel leaders are among those hiding in Venezuela.

"We have the right to demand that Venezuela doesn't [tolerate rebels] by Colombia," Hoyos said, urging the OAS to investigate Colombia's claims.

OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza told reporters after the four-hour session that his organization could not mount an inspection mission without Venezuela's consent.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro announced that Chavez's government had closed its embassy in Bogota and demanded that Colombia's ambassador in Caracas leave the country within 72 hours.

Chavez's envoy to the OAS, Roy Chaderton, said the photographs that Hoyos showed didn't provide any solid evidence of a guerrilla presence.

CHAVEZ

Chaderton suggested the photographs could be bogus, saying Uribe "is capable of anything."

The Venezuelan leader, a fierce passionate, contended Uribe could seek to spur an armed conflict with Venezuela before he leaves office next month. Colombian President-elect Juan Manuel Santos, who was visiting Mexico, declined to comment and declared to the current administration in Colombia.

"Uribe is even capable of setting up a false camp to one of the jungles on the Venezuelan side to attack it, bomb it and bring about a war between Colombia and Venezuela," Chavez said.

The outsider leader has argued in the past that US officials are using Colombia as a broader plan to portray him as a supporter of terrorist groups to provide justification for US military intervention in Venezuela. Chavez, who appeared alongside Argentine football legend Diego Maradona on Thursday, said Washington is trying to alienate Colombia to try to undermine Venezuela's efforts toward regional integration. AP

OOPS: WRONG DIRECTION
Indonesia's Muslims learned last month they have been praying in the wrong direction, after the country's highest Islamic authority said its directive on the direction of Mecca actually had people facing 40 to... AFP/FILE

Entrenched behavior challenged: New US guidelines seek to cut rate of repeat cesareans

MOST WOMEN who have had cesarean sections can safely give birth the normal way, long-awaited new doctors, but in recent years hospitals, doctors and insurers have been refusing to let them even try, insisting on repeat cesareans instead.

The decisions have been based largely on fears of medical risks and lawsuits, medical and legal experts say.

The hospital rules have infuriated many women, added to the natural ever-increasing cesarean rate and set off a bitter debate over who controls childbirth. Now, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists is issuing its own set of medical guidelines meant to make it easier for women to find doctors and hospitals that will allow vaginal birth after cesarean, or VBAC (pronounced vee-back).

Women's health advocates praised the new guidelines because they say they will put more women considered eligible for vaginal births, but they expressed doubts about whether the recommendations go far enough to change a decade of entrenched behavior by doctors, hospitals and insurers.

The new guidelines replace the obstetrician group's earlier more...obtain votes exactly what led many hospitals to ban VBAC in the first place, the group says. It never intended to limit women's access to vaginal birth, and it acknowledges that in policies may have helped fuel the trend toward too many cesareans.

"It will be better for women in the long run if we can leave the C-section into," said Dr. Richard N. Waldman, president of the obstetricians' group and chair of obstetrics at St Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, NY.

The guidelines are being published on Thursday in the August issue of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

About 1.6 million women had cesareans...or about 32 percent of all births—in 2009, the latest year with figures available, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Like earlier guidelines, the new ones say that vaginal birth is safe for most women who have had a cesarean, provided that the cut in the uterus was low and horizontal, the way nearly all cesareans are performed today. Sixty percent to 80 percent of women who have what doctors call "a trial of labor"—an attempt to deliver vaginally—after a cesarean succeed. NYT

Foton Motor Phils. launched its Rainy Days Service Promo

Europe turns ear toward voice of the people

BRUSSELS—The way Martin Bindler sees it, there ought to be a law prohibiting shops all across Europe from opening on Sundays, much as there has been for generations in his native Bavaria.

He has already begun collecting signatures of support. And soon, courtesy of a little-debated clause in the new Lisbon Treaty the European Union may be obliged to consider drawing up such legislation.

"For me, Sunday is a family day," said Bindler, a German member of the European Parliament who is being urged on by his wife, church groups and trade unionists.

Long criticized as lacking democratic accountability, the European Union would soon see petitions on subjects as varied as banning ball-fighting, bingo and genetically modified food, cracking offshore drilling, introducing new taxes, ending the exchange of financial data with the United States, and keeping Turkey out of the union.

Proponents hope the initiatives will be something of a confidence-building exercise, too. Started to collect signatures across borders, Europeans will finally, they hope, get to know one another, engage in Europeanwide debates and develop the elusive "European identity."

But others are trouble-brewing. What if the issues of the citizens turns out to be racist, politically unsavory (think California rebel...

S. Africa's Tutu to retire from public life

TUTU

JOHANNESBURG—One of South Africa's most beloved figures, Desmond Tutu, announced plans to retire from public life after his 79th birthday in October. The Nobel peace laureate honored for his efforts to fight apartheid said he wants to spend more time with his family.

South African-born Nobel peace laureate Desmond Tutu said his retirement was well-deserved, but many said they could not imagine the country without his moral leadership.

Opposition politician Patricia de Lille said Tutu's "special" voice would be missed and there were hopes he would still speak out on issues facing the nation.

Josephine Mtshiba, 85, an unemployed woman in Johannesburg, said Tutu deserved to step out of the spotlight after a lifetime of service to his countrymen.

"It's been a long road for him and he looked after us all in South Africa ... he prayed for us all," she said.

The South African Council of Churches, which Tutu led during the apartheid era, commended the archbishop for the "prophetic role he played national and internationally."

"He was truly a voice in the darkness for very many people who are dwelling in the darkness. He offered hope, he offered love and he offered life," the council's secretary general Eddie Makue said.

In the years since apartheid ended in 1994, Tutu has remained active on a wide array of social and political issues, calling for the ouster of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and also helping to welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors last month to the World Cup.

"He has become an international icon of freedom integrity, who has taken a stand against power about throughout his long public life," said Helen Zille, the leader of South Africa's main opposition political party, the Democratic Alliance. AP

INVITATION TO BID

The municipality of Tubao through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Purchase of Fertilizers, Insecticides & Pesticides
Location	Tubao, La Union
Brief Description	Purchase of Fertilizers, Insecticides & Pesticides for distribution to indigenous farmers in selected barangays
Approved Budget	P 2,31 1,680.00
Source of Fund	5% 7111

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All participants relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Activities Schedule

1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 21, 2010 - August 05, 2010
2. Pre-Bid Conference	August 11, 2010
3. Opening of Bid Documents	August 26, 2010 9:00 AM

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of 2,000.00 to the municipality of Tubao Cashier.

The municipality of Tubao, La Union assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bids.

Contact Person:

(Sgd.) RUFINO C. ALVA, SR.
BAC Secretariat

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. ROSEMARY B. MAGNA
BAC Chairman

Editor Lawrence B. Gonzon

The WORLD

Kosovo's independence legal, World Court rules

PRAGUE—Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence from Serbia in 2008 did not violate international law, the United Nations' highest court said on Thursday in a ruling that Kosovo heralded as a victory but that legal experts warned could spur separatist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

Legal experts said that while the International Court of Justice had ruled that Kosovo's declaration of independence was legal, it had avoided saying that the state of Kosovo was legal under international law, a narrower and carefully calibrated conclusion that they said could allow both sides to declare victory in a dispute that remains raw even 11 years after the war there.

Political analysts said the advisory opinion, passed in a 10-4 vote by the court judges, is likely to spur other secessionist movements around the world.

HELPING HY NIVES Mohamad Ibrahim Ashaari (center), 41, posing for a group photo with his four wives in Kuala Lumpur ...

Polygamy leads to unhappy families, says Malaysian study

KUALA LUMPUR—Men in polygamous relationships find it difficult to meet the needs of all their wives and children, and the result is unhappy and confused-ridden families, according to a landmark Malaysian study.

Polygamy is legal for Muslims, who make up more than 60 percent of Malaysia's population, allowing Muslim men to take up to four wives.

But activists and women's groups say polygamy is cruel and has deviated from its original purpose to help, which was to protect widows and orphans.

A study by advocacy group Sisters in Islam (SIS) found that the majority of first wives and children in polygamous families were unhappy with the arrangement.

Husbands and junior wives gave a more positive response, according to the study which looked activists' views that first wives had only forgotten after a man enters a new family.

"The husbands are the most advantaged in terms of fulfilling his desire and satisfaction in life. He has access to more than one sexual partner every day or night while the wives take turns," the study said.

According to preliminary data, more than 40 percent of the 523 children in Kemboja interviewed were from families in one polygamy themselves, and two-thirds of first wives were against the practice.

"Generally, it is due to the fact that their right to demand time and money from their husband has decreased because their husband now has another family," IIUM researcher Syarifuddi Adibah Mohamad Anif told AFP.

"Despite some women saying they are not happy in the marriage, they have to accept it and they are resigned to it. They are in a vulnerable position—financially or emotionally," she said. AFP

Editor Raul G. Manuela ● Assistant Editor Connie S. Martinez

BUSINESS

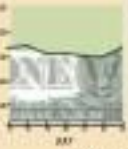
IN THIS ISSUE
■ PAL narrows losses by 95% to $14.3M /B4

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Economy on its way to attaining '10 growth target /B6

RP eyes participation in free trade deal

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
July 23, 2010
46.315



STOCK MARKET
July 23, 2010
▲ 1.2

Stocks up slightly

LOCAL STOCKS were marginally up yesterday, aided by an optimistic overnight trading in Wall Street that was fueled by favorable corporate earnings and economic reports.

The composite Philippine Stock Exchange index added 1.2 points or 0.3% percent to 3,846.18. A late surge in profit-taking pared down the sharp gains seen earlier in intra-day trade.

The market was bolstered by gains of financial, holding firms and retail-grid counters, which were respectively up by 1.5 percent, 1 percent and 1.5 percent. On the other hand, the industrial and property sectors traded in the red.

Value turnover was heavier at P4.4 billion compared to previous days. There were 95 gainers, 69 decliners and 75 unchanged stocks.

STOCKS B4

Exclusion to put country at a disadvantage

By Abigail L. Ho

SEEKING TO further open its doors to more international trade, the Philippines has expressed interest in joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a multilateral free trade deal that involves several economies, including the country's biggest trading partner, the United States.

In a speech before members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Wednesday evening, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said it was now common practice among economies to participate in multilateral trade pacts.

"You have to be part of every trade agreement because to be excluded is a disadvantage for you. We're not yet part of [the TPP], but at some point, I think it is our desire to join as well," he said.

Apart from the United States, current participants in the TPP include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

The previous administration was not keen on participating in this particular pact.

The TPP agreement was signed in 2005 and had only three countries as members: Chile, New Zealand and Singapore. The US joined the group in 2008.

The aim of the free trade agreement (on being all tariffs down to zero by 2015. The coverage of the deal spans trade in goods and services, rules of origin, trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers, intellectual property, government procurement and competition policy.

"We will be very vigilant in joining various trade agreements. We'll try to join as many trade agreements as possible, but still keeping in mind that

Subsidies to gov't firms hit ₱7.47B in first 6 months

By Reena F.W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT gave out P7.47 billion in subsidies to state-owned and -controlled corporations in the first semester, mostly benefiting entities engaged in rice, housing, telecommunications and agricultural development projects.

Documents from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the amount represented an increase of 7 percent from the P6.98 billion disbursed in the same half of 2009.

The top recipient remained the National Food Authority, getting bulk of the period's total subsidies with P2.85 billion.

The other top five recipients were the National Housing Authority (NHA) with P1.07 billion; National Telecommunications Commission, P1.02 billion; National Livelihood Development Corp. (NLDC), P981 million, and the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), P344 million.

In June alone, the flow of subsidies from the national government weakened to P1.83 billion, or just about a tenth of P1.89 billion given out in the same month last year.

The Rizal Commercial Development Authority received the biggest chunk for the month, getting P82 million or about half of the total for June.

Other big recipients in June were NLDC, which received P65 million; National Kidney and Transplant Institute, P6 million; Philippine Heart Center, P6 million, and

ETON CENTRIS
Showcases a New Lifestyle Experience with Centris Walk

By Michelle Valerio

At the heart of Quezon City rises an all-new luxurious capital destined to redefine standards in dining preferences of Filipino families and young urban moguls.

Located in the largest city in Metro Manila, within the 12-hectare ETON CENTRIS township project of Eton Properties Philippines, Inc., Centris Walk is envisioned to be the city's newest dining capital that will soon be home to an extensive line up of the trendiest restaurants, specialty shops and entertainment centers in the metropolis.

Eton Properties Philippines, Inc. is currently fast-tracking the development of Eton Centris to provide the metropolis with world-class commercial, office, and residential facilities. Its first commercial development was Centris Station, a transit-oriented mall in Quezon Avenue which opened in December of 2009 to cater to the fast-paced lifestyle of the Filipino working community. Directly connected to the MRT and anchored by SM Hypermarket, it has enjoyed significant foot traffic as it provides a beautiful and convenient stop to Filipino commuters and motorists after a day of corporate hustle and bustle, and the daily heavy toll under the sun.

Centris Walk, finely crafted as a high-end dining and entertainment strip, is well-adorned by lush greenery and pedestrian-friendly promenades, which will be home to specialty shops and the most sought after dining venues.

"We conceptualized Centris Walk based on the lifestyle orientation and expectations of people who want the convenience and serenity of dining and retail facilities. Basically, we want to provide a refreshing and distinctive breathing space for the people of Quezon City," said Antero Hechanova, Vice-President and Commercial Centers Business Head of Eton Properties.

The high-end dining strip will soon be home to a host of specialty and themed restaurants, cafes, fine dining and restaurant bars, a bookstore and entertainment hubs. A truly one-of-a-kind development in Quezon City, Centris Walk aims to provide something distinctly different and iconic for city dwellers, visitors and tourists to experience and revel about.

An architectural feature unique to Centris Walk are its iconic modern canopies called "Constellations" that light up in different soft colors complementing a relaxing nightly stroll, a quiet dinner and provide a stylish backdrop for special events and private functions held at night. "Eton Centris is being positioned as a yardstick for innovative township developments in line with the goal to develop Quezon City as one of the country's most progressive cities. The development of Centris Walk being an important component of Eton Centris brings to life this worthy endeavor", said Janette Madrigal, Eton Vice-President for Business Development. "In this stretch of EDSA, Centris Walk targets the high-end market so we put up a lot of effort in the design by making it as modern and highly distinctive as possible. We also want to show people that there is something new here, something much better than the places they are used to, which provides modern components that better fit their lifestyles," she added.

One of the inherent strengths of Centris Walk is its extensive parking facility that can accommodate close to 1,000 vehicles. Parking is never a problem with the development's ample provision for parking complemented by 24-hour security service.

Last July 15, Centris Walk opened its doors to the public with the opening of a number of specialty and fine dining restaurants namely Aryn, My Thai, Jack's Loft, Pancake House, Tutti Frutti, Italianni, Zong, and Pho Hoa. Among the anchor tenants and restaurants to open soon are Fully Booked, Tong Yang, Island Spa, Laser Maxx, Choc Gorilla, Coffee Bean, Claw Daddy and entertainment hubs like Q-Power Station, among others.

A weekend market organized by Select featuring a wide variety of rare finds is likewise being held every Saturday from 6 am to 2 pm to treat Quezon City residents to leisurely pursuits and give them a taste of more exciting activities to happen at Centris Walk.

"Convenience is key here. For now, we focus on the distinctive dining experience," said Hechanova. "We are continuously studying options to grow bigger in due time to complete the big revelation that is the Eton Centris township", he adds.

A new dining experience

CENTRIS Walk

Feel the heat, the beat, the vibe, and the verve of a hip culture designed for today's fashionable set. From fine-dining restaurants, outdoor cafés, to pulsating bars, Centris Walk offers a unique mix of lifestyle, dining and entertainment experiences. Indulge in mouth-watering treats from **Aryo, My Thai Kitchen, Jack's Loft, Italianni, Pancake House, Tutti Frutti, Pho Hoa and Zong.** More restaurants to open very soon.

CENTRIS Weekend Market

organized by Sidcor

Every Saturday, 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Ample secured parking spaces available

A vibrant, new lifestyle is about to emerge in Davao City's most exciting district – and it's happening here at ETON CENTRIS.

Eton Centris is the next big thing north of Metro Manila. Integrating world-class business, residential, retail, and recreational components in one choice setting, Eton Centris embraces a lifestyle that lets you live, work, play, and shop in a master-planned, integrated and self-contained community.

ETON CENTRIS

For more information call

710-9463

www.eton.com.ph

PAL narrows losses by 95% to $14.3M

Improved standing due to cost-cutting measures

By Dazlin L. Lucas

FLAG CARRIER Philippine Airlines yesterday reported a significantly improved financial standing at the end of its recently concluded fiscal year, where drastic cost-cutting measures reduced its losses by more than 95 percent.

In its filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), PAL said its total accumulated losses for the fiscal year that ended in March 2010 fell to only $14.3 million.

This marks a sharp decline from the company's net loss of $287.8 million in the previous year, after the airline implemented cost reduction measures.

According to its CFO, Ming Pal, unprecedented weak passenger demand mainly in international operations, as well as lower fares, which drove revenue down to $1.26 billion this year from $1.46 billion the year before.

"Worldwide capacity cuts during the year did not keep pace with declining traffic demand thus exerting significant pressure in pushing down fares and yields," PAL said.

But mainly to lower fuel prices, cost cutting and cost containment, against sharp declines in sales, PAL's total expenses by the end of March 2010 dropped by 28 percent to $1.33 billion.

The airline also recognized provisions for income taxes and for valuation losses on outstanding fuel derivatives.

PAL said it was continuing to look for ways to improve its financial condition and the results of its operations. It has lined up and implemented various revenue enhancement programs, cash generation strategies and cost control initiatives, the airline stressed.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) recently reported strong booking in the demand in selected airlines to post profits in 2010. However, it says the airline industry still has a long way to go to achieve sustainable profitability.

Prospective Pure Foods buyers down to 2

DISCLOSURES

MACROASIA CORP. has disclosed the buyback of 100,000 shares at P3 per share on July 22, in line with the company's share buyback program.

***

VANTAGE EQUITIES INC. said it bought back 30,000 of its shares at P1.28 per share on July 22, in line with the company's share buyback program.

***

SUBLINE VINYL CORP. has disclosed the retirement of Iulio V. Tiongson Jr. as company secretary as presented for finance effective June 30, 2010.

***

BANKARD INC. has disclosed the approval of the hiring of Vidal P. Hayes as company executive vice president and chief operations officer effective July 1.

***

WATERFRONT PHILIPPINES Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 14 at 10 a.m. at the Makati and Cebu City Hotel, Inc., Lahug, Cebu City. Stockholders of record as of July 20 will be entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

***

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY INC. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 28 at 2 p.m. the Archives Room, 3rd floor, Administration Building, FEU, Nicanor Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 9 will be entitled to vote at the said meeting.

(Compiled by Schatz Gooden, INTERNET Bisnews)

By Doris C. Dumlao

DIVESTMENTS: CONGLOMERATE San Miguel Corp. has narrowed down to two the list of prospective buyers of a minority but strategic stake in food unit San Miguel Pure Foods Co.

This was announced yesterday by a week after San Miguel accepted buy-impressionable Brand San Miguel investors.

San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang said the two bidders would "proceed to further due diligence prior to final negotiations."

Ang did not disclose the identity of the two firms in the short list.

Earlier reports identified the Colmegrowth Universal Robina Corp., local pharmaceutical giant Inc. Indeed and GS Board asset management firm Lehlo as among the investors interested in the MOPC stake.

San Miguel, with the help of financial adviser JP Morgan, received proposals from a number of investors the other week.

The conglomerate indicated yesterday that San Miguel would keep a majority stake in SMPFC, with the remaining minority stake offered for sale.

Ang earlier said the conglomerate would consider selling a majority interest to the food firm only if the offer was "spectacular."

San Miguel's food unit currently enjoys the biggest domestic market share in poultry (40 percent) and hotdog (65 percent).

The market share of its packaged meat business was estimated at 20 percent. In the canned beef segment alone, the company has an estimated market share of 28 percent, making it the second largest player.

The company was formerly owned by the Ayala group but was acquired by San Miguel in 2001 and consolidated with its food operations to cement its position as the country's largest food company.

Over the years, the SMPFC has diversified into poultry and livestock operations, fresh and flour milling, dairy and coffee operations and foodservice operations.

Among the food brands in its portfolio are Magnolia, Pure Foods, Monterey, Star, Hot Dogs, B-Meg, and Purefoods Blended.

San Miguel's food unit has a market capitalization of P57.3 billion as of yesterday's closing price of P3.95 per share, up from only P4.9 billion in the last three months.

NTC junks small telco's frequency claim

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has denied a request of a small phone firm to reclaim its radio frequencies.

The company, SOHI Broadcasting, used to have the right to use this frequency but it did not.

In an en banc decision, the regulator denied SOHI's claim over the frequency following its failure to roll out telecommunications services in the period given to it by the NTC.

The frequencies—covering Metro Manila and areas both in the north and south of the capital region—is now being used by Smart Communications Inc. for its wireless broadband services.

SOHI was granted an 18-month provisional authority to operate the MMDS system in Metro Manila, Batangas and Calabarzon but failed to start operations by the time the PA lapsed on Oct. 15, 2004.

"After painstaking examination of the facts and evidence presented, this commission finds no cogent reason to extend the PA of SOHI since it failed to comply with the terms and conditions of its PA," the NTC said.

The Firm claimed it had failed to start operations because it was still negotiating for the acquisition of the transmitter needed. It said currency fluctuations, a worldwide recession and global terrorism prompted it to adopt a "wait and see attitude."

The NTC confirmed the frequency to Smart Communications in August 2005, Deputy Commissioner Douglas Michael Maddiis said.

SOHI's frequencies are being purchased by its mother firm, Liongoo.

Liongoo was recently served during one of the court appearances by the National Bureau of Investigation on the strength of 261 arrest warrants issued against him for 719 counts of estafa and illegal recruitment.

"SOHI failed to commence its rollout plans as stated fully requested in its PA. This fact is bolstered by SOHI's own admission of its Annual Report and its failure to pay the Supervision and Regulation Fees (SRF) during the duration of its PA," the NTC noted.

It added that SOHI's failure to construct and install its station works and transmission of its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) "can be construed as SOHI's lack of power or its incapacity to operate and maintain wireless cable television and radio broadcast with the use of MMDS in the service area granted."

The NTC pointed out that records show SOHI only applied for a permit to purchase its transmitter after the expiration of its PA.

RP eyes participation in free trade deal

From page B1

our interest is really to protect the interest of Philippine businesses and Philippine consumers," Domingo said.

The country is a participant in various bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements, including the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement, Asean-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, and the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

Gov't subsidies hit P7.47B in first half

From page B1

National Treasury Authority, P4 million.

While the new team of economic managers has criticized unnecessary increases in government expenses during the first half, officials have said they were prepared to keep spending above the budget.

Finance Secretary Cesar E. Purisima said earlier this month that the Aquino administration did not regard balancing the national budget as important as allowing the government enough room to provide basic services through deficit spending.

Purisima said the more important issue was to keep the deficit at a manageable level, such as 2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Balancing the budget for its own sake was not something that the new administration wants to pursue, he said.

"We want to maintain space for government programs," he added, meaning the new economic team was prepared to keep spending beyond government revenues.

Stocks up slightly

From page B1

The day's heaviest gainers were PNB, PLDT, Metrobank, Ayala Land, Ayala Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe Telecom, Inc., Jollibee Foods Corp., Manila Electric Co., Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., San Miguel Corp., Security Bank Corp., Universal Robina Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Corp., Ayala Land, Inc., Banco de Oro Unibank, Inc., Bloomberry Resorts Corp., Globe Telecom, Inc., Jollibee Foods Corp., Manila Electric Co., Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., San Miguel Corp., Security Bank Corp., Universal Robina Corp.

Trading in Wall Street was robust, with the Dow Jones industrial index racking up 281.77 points or 1.99 percent to 14,522.30. A better-than-expected second-quarter earnings report by some companies as well as encouraging data on housing and signs of growth in Europe rekindled investors' risk appetite.

Doris C. Dumlao

People, Events & Products

E-mail: p_ep@inquirer.com.ph
epphotos@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Arlen Espinosa

Thrifty travel tips from Cebu Pacific

TRAVELING IS one of life's most exciting pleasures. With breathtaking places to explore, mesmerizing people to meet, colorful cultures to discover, and delicious delicacies to enjoy, travel is a life-enriching, even life-changing, experience. Fortunately, savvy travelers today have plenty of budget travel options to choose from—from airlines to accommodations to food—enabling them to take exciting journeys without spending too much.

The country's bigger airline, Cebu Pacific (CEB) regularly offers the lowest year-round fares and seat sales, perfect for those looking for a thrifty travel experience. To help you enjoy the benefits of travel, the budget airline shares some tips for every frame so they take on the many joys of practical, affordable travel.

Big group means big savings. The more people there are joining the trip, the more wallets in-chip in for the expenses. There are also packaged tours that offer discounts to travelers in big groups.

Research and read up. Google is a frequent traveler's best friend. Before heading out to your destination, hit the Internet first and browse about the place you're going to visit. Remember the best finds, cheap, safe and comfortable hotels, and inexpensive local restaurants in that area. You can also ask around (especially among people who've already been there) to find inexpensive leisure and lodging, as well as other travel bargains. You can also ask people to hook you up with family and friends who know the ins and outs of the destination.

Affordable accommodation. Be flexible in terms of location. Stay outside the major tourist attractions as hotels in the center of such spots cost a lot more. Also remember to research the hotel's website and check on its facilities and asking back ahead of time or during off-peak seasons and look for promo offerings.

Load up on snacks. To minimize unnecessary food expenses, bring lots of snacks for the trip so you won't have to purchase overpriced meals, especially in the airports, when you get hungry. And if you are touring by local boats, ask the workers where to find inexpensive but delicious authentic native cuisine.

Bring enough clothes. Anticipate the activities that you may want to join during the trip and pack enough clothes so you won't have to buy anything (i.e., if you're going to a tropical destination, bring your swim wear) Bring extra clothes, say, in case of emergencies. You can also add a jacket even if you're going to a tropical place, since the temperature may be cooler at night.

Have a travel kit with you. Always bring a first aid kit with you. This should include all your personal medications, aspirin, band aids, alcohol, and other useful medicine for the whole trip. The last thing you need is paying for a hefty hospital bill when you are on tour.

Fly high on low-cost airlines. Choose an airline that offers low prices airfare like Cebu Pacific. Everyone can take advantage of its seat sales, roundtrip promo fares, and affordable package tours all year-round. Cebu Pacific helps to foster a culture of you-can-easily and conveniently book flights online. Sign up for alerts, too, or follow @flycebupacific on Twitter so you can have first dibs on the best and most economical seats.

For more information on Cebu Pacific's promo offerings, log on to www.cebupacific.com.

With these thrift tricks, there's no need to run your wallet dry whenever the travel bug hits. Factor in the enchantment in learn and discover and every Juan can be sure to make the most out of every travel experience.

PNB 2010 Dollar Promo raffles off 3 brand new cars

DOLLAR DEPOSITORS of Philippine National Bank (PNB) are in for a special treat as the launch of the bank's 2010 raffle promotion where three brand new cars are up for grabs. New and existing individual and joint) depositors who open and maintain a PNB Dollar Savings Account, Dollar Savings Special, DOSD Beneficiary Accounts, Dollar Checking Account or Government Accounts from June 1 to June 30 get a chance to win a 2010 Hyundai Tucson GL 2WD (MT) or one of two 2010 Toyota Vios J6 (MT). These prizes are being given away tax-free.

To qualify for raffle points, researchholders only need to make a fresh deposit of US$500 during the promo period. For every US$500 the depositors get one electronic raffle entry for every US$500 incremental deposit. On top of this, every US$500 of their May 2010 year-to-date average daily balance (ADB) will be credited to additional raffle numbers. New clients, on the other hand, get a raffle point for every US$500 of their computed average month-to-date ADB for 6 months. Hence, the bigger the deposit, the more chances one gets to drive home a brand-new car.

The promotion is a follow-up to the bank's highly successful Digging Dollar, Digging Reserve numbering campaigns in 2009 where it raffled off a total of US$40,000 cash to 13 lucky winners. This time, the bank is providing bigger rewards to its loyal depositors. "PNB ensures reciprocation of the continuing trust and loyalty of its clients by making their dream of having a brand new car come true sooner than expected", said PNB president and CEO Eugene S. Acevedo. "This promotion is also a token of appreciation by PNB to our valued clients." Filipinos Working for saving their dollar earnings with the bank in order to provide financial security for their families", Acevedo added.

PNB is one of the country's largest private commercial banks. It provides a wide range of banking products and services to the retail, corporate and institutional markets. It ended the first quarter of 2010 with a net income of P969 million, up 22 percent year-on-year.

For peruso details, please inquire from any of PNB's 324 branches nationwide or call (632) 526-3131, 526-3496, 526-3474 or 526-3211 to 40 local 2199. You may also visit www.pnb.com.ph.

FL APPLIANCE '10TH ANNIVERSARYO BONGGA PAPREMYO' RAFFLE

Antonio Mendoza, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. Region 6 director for sales, consumer electronics, presenting grand prize winner of FL Appliance Inc 10th Anniversary Bongga Paprenyo Raffle Promo Part III in attendance during the grand raffle draw are (from) Samuel Vasquez consumer electronics sales Lucas Cabos, Roger Lo of FL Appliance president, Lucy Lo, FL Appliance VP for finance, Antonio Mendoza, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. Region 6 director for sales, consumer electronics, Rommel Baria, FL Appliance operations manager, Rosy Lumagang, Ireco dealer development manager Ireli del Rosario. The grand prize winner of Bacolod area a house and lot located at St. Scholastica's Village, Brgy. Sum-ag, Bacolod City.

ASIANLIFE, SOFITEL SIGN CONTRACT

Asianlife and General Assurance Corp (Asian Life) will provide the medical insurance benefits for Sofitel Philippine Plaza's (Sofitel) employees and their dependents. Sofitel sales service Division, Jed Rosario Insurance Brokers Inc. (IBRI) as its insurance consultant. Asian Life is part of the SM Group, the leading conglomerate of diversified non-bank financial services in the Philippines. Shown in photo (seated) are Sofitel's Ms. Nanette Mercado-Ramos, vice president for group insurance division Manuel M. Alonso, Asian Life president and CEO Estrella A. Mendoza, Sofitel general manager Yann Nelis, Sofitel financial controller Aquilino Dela, IBRI employee benefits head Ms. Rowena P. Nicolas (standing from left are Asian Life vice president for group marketing Constantino Gana, Sofitel Director of Rooms Mary Garcia, Sofitel Director of F&B Shirley Li, Sofitel assistant manager Ms. Grace, Sofitel's IT director Yvonne Lu Ibau, Asian Life area president Lee Abel Bautista, Asian Life vice president Lee Abel Bautista, Asian Life vice president and head of group marketing Ms. Rowena Nicolas, Asian Life vice president and head of group marketing Ms. Rowena Nicolas, Asian Life vice president and head of group marketing Ms. Rowena Nicolas

BUSINESS

Economy on its way to attaining '10 growth target

By Michelle V. Remo

Estimated rise of GDP in Q2 comes as no surprise to BSP

THE ECONOMY is estimated to have expanded healthily in the second quarter, staying well on track to attain the government's full-year growth target of between 7 and 8 percent.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, indicators pointed to a still encouraging growth figure in April to June, supporting the robust growth of 7.2 percent reported in the first three months of the year.

"The GDP [gross domestic product] growth outlook for the second quarter is quite good and consistent with the growth path of 7 to 8 percent as targeted by the DBCC [Development Budget Coordination Committee]," said BSP Assistant Governor Ma. Cyd Tuaño-Amador.

She did not give an exact figure, explaining that it would be up to the National Economic and Development Authority to announce the economy's performance in the second quarter.

Amador said the economy's improved performance in the three months to June was based on industries, including higher electricity and car sales, and increase in consumption of other goods. Rise in consumption is partly attributed to sustained confidence in investments.

She said that, so far, the debt crisis in Europe appeared to have no adverse effect on the Philippines.

Although there had been speculations that the crisis in the West could drag down exports Philippine exports, apart from metal mixers, shrunk until any impact from Europe would have been minimal because the Philippines has other sources of growth.

The central bank executive said remittances from countries affected by the debt crisis also increased only less than 5 percent of total money sent in by overseas Filipino workers.

As far as Philippine exports are concerned, Amador said, those should also not be signalled, saying affected by the debt crisis in the Euro zone. She said exports to crisis-affected countries in Europe only made up about two percent of the Philippines' export revenues.

RP finds itself in net borrowing position

By Reuend W. Dizvinges

THE GOVERNMENT'S financing position in the first semester showed a net borrowing of P143.3 billion—about seven times the P20.4 billion recorded in the same period last year, according to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

Global bonds issued in January worth P68.5 billion, as well as samurai bonds that were floated in March worth P51.74 billion accounted for much of the debt incurred in the first half.

From January to June, new government borrowings reached P606.91 billion—P152.98 billion were drawn from foreign sources while P249 billion were tapped from domestic investors.

The period's total maturities and prepayments of local and foreign debt reached P463.61 billion, higher than last year's figure by 20.2 percent.

In June alone, the government's financing position settled at a net borrowing of P37.42 billion.

Earlier this week, the BTr reported that the budget deficit in the first half reached P196.7 billion, higher than last year's figure by 20.2 percent.

In June, the government availed of a total of P52.35 billion in new foreign loans than last year's P1.74 billion.

Dollar earners urge review of BSP mandate

By Abigail L. Ho

DOLLAR EARNERS, both individuals and enterprises, have collectively called on President Aquino to direct the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to make policies that are in favor of a "competitive" peso.

The coalition is composed of economists, overseas workers and their families, as well as players in the tourism, services and merchandise exports sectors, Philippine Exporters Confederation president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said.

The group is seeking reforms in the BSP's current foreign exchange policies, Ortiz-Luis said.

"BSP's bias to control inflation has been used as an excuse to keep the peso strong against the US dollar—at the expense of OFWs and the exporting community," he said in a speech during Philexport's members' ship meeting last week.

More than eight million OFWs and their families are reeling due to the strong peso, he said. Likewise, small exporters have registered losses due to the central bank's policy to keep the currency strong.

If the BSP would continue to maintain its strong peso policy, many indigenous exporters may be forced to either downsize or close shop, he warned.

Anyway, if the three largest oil companies here—Petron, Shell and Chevron—would agree to move out of Bataan, the whole area issue would be put to rest.

In a 2007 ruling, former Chief Justice Reynato Puno stated that these were to move to Subic since there was a need to enhance the safety of people in Bataan.

That was about three years ago! And still, the hard-headed oil companies are not listening.

He can, even before 2010 BS could shoot out a detailed plan. Recall that the proposed dream, perhaps believing that the people in Bataan do not really live in four today.

By the way, the plan to modernize Subic Harbor has been, well, just that, a plan, for the past of 20 years or so.

It may interest the new President to ask former Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri why he has been blocking the plan.

And here we have a DOE official issuing a statement, basically whipping the proposal to build an oil tank farm at Subic harbor.

Ban of the cloth

WE HIT the headlines abroad again: a couple of days ago when the business news outfit Bloomberg reported: "mining ban looms in the Philippines."

The story certainly stirred the anti-mining groups here, including leaders of the Catholic Church and left-leaning sectors, which have been attacking the mining industry for the past 15 years since the passage of the Mining Act of 1995.

Look at that: Congress enacted such a comprehensive law more than 15 years ago. What do we have to show for it today? Radical bishops!

Now Bloomberg could have based its report on the hints going around the business community since the start of the Aquino (Part II) administration.

And that was, well, with a little help from friends in the new administration—probably even including the new President. Those anti-mining groups would make a lot of noise about scrapping the mining law and could even succeed.

There is a pending bill in the House of Representatives called the "Alternative Mining bill," sponsored by Iriga Rep. Rene Bonoan-Rosal, Pedro Pedro Bello, Isidro Rodriguez and Carlos Padilla.

Currently on its third reading, the bill basically seeks to discourage foreign investments in mining here, by promoting for instance what is known in the industry as "small-scale" mining, the equivalent of the "bayugo" system in logging.

President Benigno Simeon Aquino III will soon deliver his first State, and the CBCP (the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines) now claim in its website that a Cabinet member is backing the CBCP in throwing out the mining law.

He is none other than Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, who met with the CBCP recently and was quoted as saying that the law should be scrapped altogether. Hmmm.

I don't know if, in front of some highly-esteemed men of the cloth, the good secretary could really MAKE no mistake about it: if the anti-mining groups succeed in scrapping the mining law, we will have to do with the wasteful, inefficient pick-and-shovel mining methods.

Do they mean a total ban on mining? NO. They just focus small-scale mining.

Meaning, they still recognize the need for this poor country to tap its huge mineral resources, estimated to be worth billions of pesos.

Studies have shown that the Philippines ranked among the top ten countries in the world in terms of mineral deposits, while more than half of its population remains poor.

Now the main concern over this "issue" is its effect on the environment. Do you think that small-scale mining, which the anti-mining groups advocate, probably as a compromise, will not harm the environment?

Believe me, a lot of investments in so-called small-scale mining also comes from abroad, mainly from Chinese, Koreans, and Japanese individuals. Many of them, if not all of them, really do not care much about the country's environment.

Do recall, ask the provincial governors who give out small-scale mining permits, without security and technical bank for the approval whatsoever.

* * *

DIRECTORS OF Filipinas Shell insist on keeping their fuel depot in the (Still) populated Pandacan district of Manila, instead of relocating it to Subic Bay Harbor.

As everybody knows, Petron is planning to build an oil tank farm at the harbor to replace the Pandacan depot.

In fact, Petron's main stockholder, none other than the giant San Miguel, already invested in a company called Manila North Harbor Port (MNHPI), which the government assigned to rehabilitate the port.

San Miguel has a strategic interest in MNHPI because San Miguel wants to build a modern grain terminal at the port, which it intends to complete in just a year.

PROPERTY
Editor Cesar D. Mangosong

Retrofit your roof from 'gray to green'

By Tess R. Salazar

THE COLOR GRAY is usually associated with sadness and depression. Lately, it has been associated with environmental damage, as well. Gray skies nowadays not only portend gloomy, wet weather, but also of air pollution. The same impression can be had from a gray metropolis. The raw color of concrete has been closely associated with the cold, unfeeling and environment-unfriendly city.

On the other hand, the color green has been associated with life and wellness. Green is the environmentalist's color, and it has been adopted by "green architects" as well. It's the color they would want to see more of in the city. And they mean not just painting the town green. There's a lot of work to be done. In the city of Manila alone where an estimated 700 buildings rising more than 20 stories high, but only about five percent of these commercial and residential buildings may accommodate any semblance of green architecture.

So, what do green architects mean when they say "more green on the roof"? It means turning roofs into gardens—a system of 'tube... giving plants on the city's gray imposing buildings. The immediate benefit of having roofs would be an enhanced three- or five-degree reduction in temperature on the floors beneath the green roof.

Landscape architect Paulo Alcazaren, editor in chief of BluPrint Magazine, shares this simple rule for greening a city congested with buildings: What you lose on the ground you replace with greenery on top.

Roof garden

Alcazaren, who talked with the press July 14 at the Ateneo Plaza for the launch of the second biennial Visionary Design (ArtE) competition (which seeks best green roof designs), explained that 1,000 square meters would be a fairly ideal area to maximize a roof garden. He added that a roof garden requires the proper selection of plants and drainage and water supply.

He described most buildings' roofs as predominantly empty spaces, with only the air-conditioning system, cooling towers of chillers, water tanks and remnants of unused construction materials occupying rooftops.

But putting in as little as four inches of soil on these empty spaces can already be enough to grow grass. You would also need another two inches for waterproofing and a special area drain system made of lightweight plastic cells. "For a meter deep of soil, [you can] put trees. The ideal set-up is [that the ground roof] floats below a building as strobe structure," Alcazaren explained.

He stressed that though a typical roof garden would weigh less than 10,000 litres of water (approximately the weight of a typical fully loaded water tank of a large building), building owners must decide first if the structure needs to be retrofitted. Other things to consider would be the amount of soil the roof can actually carry, the drainage system that should be constructed and the structure and power for lighting. Most of the gardens, he added, can be offered as an added amenity for the building's occupants, and would then be used for nighttime activities, as lighting fixtures are needed.

Putting together a green roof, however, is not just about dumping soil and sticking in plants left and right. A green roof must also achieve a balance of architecture, and at the same time strike a harmony with the greener surroundings. In this regard, the building owner would need a structural engineer and a professional landscape architect to design the whole space.

Warning

Philippine Association of Landscape Architects president Ulieky Alonzo warned that a green roof executed incorrectly could lead to disaster.

As an example, Alonzo pointed to a roof garden on a certain commercial building on North Avenue designed by foreign consultants unfamiliar with the country's climate. He observed that the floor used for the roof garden is not sloped. The roof garden was more of a hazard during the rains, as the garden becomes slippery. Proof of the existence of this hazard is the picket fence built along the pathways for people to hold on to. There is no drainage, and the slope of the garden is incorrect, as indicated by the puddles of water. Alonzo also notes that the patio trees on the roof are not stable, and they can fall down and hit passersby. Finally, the garden is out of proportion to the commercial establishment's dimensions.

Alcazaren, Alonzo, PALA officers and representatives of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers and the United Architects of the Philippines have declared that they are advocating green designs.

These groups reiterated that their members, many of whom have worked for decades internationally, are technically equipped to do their work specifically for the Philippines.

They also stressed that with the undeniable degradation of the environment, sustainable design would be, by far, one of the most important undertakings.

Also known as environmental design, sustainable design refers to creating physical objects, built environments and services that comply with the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability. Its main goal is to eliminate the negative impacts of construction to the environment through skillful alternatives and sensitive design practices.

BluPrint Magazine, which considers itself a design caterwheel, is now on its 11th year. The ArtE competition is open to all Filipino citizens, either licensed professionals or students of landscape architecture, interior design and architecture.

MAKE IT GREEN! Serrvitsana in Manila, Center the first green roof in the Philippines.

Sorrento Oasis
ORTIGAS
My patch of freshness in the city.

Back in the refreshing charm of Sorrento Oasis, inspired by the quaint Italian town renowned for breathtaking sunsets and fragrant citrus groves.

6 Refreshing Reasons to Come Home to Sorrento Oasis

Come home to a haven.
Find a distinct freshness in urban living with stylish five-storey buildings amidst lifty-seedy scent of citrus gardens.

Come home to an accessible getaway.
Conveniently situated in Pasig City, just minutes away from schools, hospitals and shopping centers.

Come home to resort-inspired amenities.
Endless relaxation awaits you at the multipurpose clubhouse, swimming pools, play area, jogging and walking paths, spa pool, and a revitalized park.

Come home to a secure environment.
24-hour security and a protective fence enclosing the entire community ensure your safety and peace of mind.

Come home to where your hard work is valued.
Rave investment is cared for by our Property Management Team, which keeps the entire property masterfully maintained.

Experience a fresh take on urban living.
Come home to Sorrento Oasis.

Sorrento Oasis building perspective

Vicinity Map

READY-FOR-OCCUPANCY UNITS AVAILABLE AT
One Oasis
ORTIGAS
My patch of green in the city.

We build the Filipino dream.

856-7788 FILINVEST

Editor Cesar G. Mangosong

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Text or e-mail feedback: Inquirer Text message to 4467 E-mail: jc_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

A tale of 2 trailblazing dentists

By Charles E. Bahar
Special to the INQUIRER

THESE TWO decided to go beyond what is expected. They decided to seek out cutting-edge dental procedures to make Filipinos would be able to avail themselves of technologies no less than those elsewhere in the world.

But it wasn't easy in this country where oral health issues are often regarded as trivial; those rare experts had to prove that what they've introduced to the country are dental procedures merged to our overall health.

What Doctors Steve Mark Gan of Gan Advanced Osseointegrative Centers (Gan) and Emmanuel Uribe of Philippine Oral Research Co. (ORC) Dentists did was short of being exceptional for they were not only able to disseminate the merits of their advanced dental procedures here but also extend oral hygiene and oral healthcare within the family.

It used to be that once you lost your teeth—from decay, gum disease or accident—your only option would be to wear bridges as well as removable partial or full dentures.

"I thought then that there should be a new and much better option. In my training and residency in the United States, I realized dental implants could save many Filipinos from receding chin and more teeth loss," Gan says.

He explains that when teeth are missing there the jaw, the surrounding bone begins to shrink and eventually the jawbone recedes.

"Dental implants provide not only a means of replacing these lost or damaged teeth but also save the jaw bone from weakening. Indeed, the procedure is changing the way people live. They are designed to provide a foundation for replacement teeth which look, feel and function like natural teeth. The person who has lost his/her teeth regains the ability to eat virtually anything, knowing that teeth appear natural and that facial contours will be preserved, they can smile with confidence," Gan says.

When this happens, he explains the jaw bone "shrinks" it still has the teeth, stop from receding and in the process keeps all the remaining teeth healthy and intact.

The procedure itself is easy and less invasive: For most patients, the placement of dental implants involves two surgical procedures.

"First, an implant is placed within the jawbone (which takes a few minutes). For a couple of weeks following surgery, a small post is attached to the implant that is now bonded with the jawbone. The post acts as an anchor for the artificial tooth. Once the artificial tooth is placed these posts will soon be hidden. The entire procedure usually takes a couple of months and most patients experience minimal discomfort in their daily life," Gan asserts.

More teeth saving

Since early 2000 Gan has been gradually introducing the technology that may be considered more teeth saving than fixed bridges or removable partial dentures considering implants do not rely on existing teeth for support.

"We all know that your confidence about your teeth affects how you feel about yourself, both personally and professionally. Perhaps you hide your smile because of spaces from missing teeth. Maybe your dentures don't feel secure. Perhaps you have difficulty eating your food. You are missing one or more teeth and would like to smile, speak and eat again with comfort and confidence. I believe I have the best options," he says.

While Gan admits the procedure is expensive—P50,000 to more than P100,000—depending on number of teeth or type of implant material, he says dental implants are safe as well as easy to perform.

"While dental implants may be considered more involved than a traditional procedure a few years ago, this is no longer true today as more and more dentists are offering dental implants as their patients," says Gan who together with his team regularly attend international conferences and training to brush-function, fine-tune and all around hone up their skills their craft and skills in dental procedures.

He adds that the device being used today is not only safe, durable and more natural looking but has become much more affordable.

"There is also an organization that oversees the progress of the procedure here in the country. The Philippine Academy of Implant Dentistry (PAID), which is now headed by Dr. Carlos Bautista, not only updates dentists on new procedures and materials but also ensures that every member is updated on the developments regarding dental implant technology," says Gan, who is PAID's immediate past president.

(Next: Bringing healthier and beautiful smile to young kids)

Safe BP level and dancexercise

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

LAWYER JOBOY Minaud, a regular reader of this column, asks what really is to an ideal blood pressure (BP), especially for a diabetic.

An ideal BP is the pressure that will be able to drive the circulation to adequately perfuse all the vital organs of the body such as the heart, brain and kidneys. High BP is the level at which irreversible damage or dysfunction in the inner lining of the arteries is noticeably high for the individual leading to damage and malfunction of the vital organs. On the other hand, an excessively low BP may not be sufficient to drive the circulation to all the arteries and small vessels that supply adequate oxygen and nutrition. This is the level that specialists have been trying to find out all these years.

It seems that we have a fairly good idea what the optimal upper level is—less than 140/90 mmHg for the general population, and around 130/80 mmHg for high-risk patients which include diabetics and those with established heart, brain or kidney disease—but there is still some disagreement as to what should still be a sufficient lower level of BP. While it is true that high-risk patients should have a relatively lower BP level, and that diabetics are generally considered as high-risk and as equivalent to risk as someone who already had a heart attack, there is again some browning coupon-wrong of over-aggressiveness in bringing down the BP in diabetics and similarly situated high-risk patients.

J-curve phenomenon

Researchers have lately revived the J-curve phenomenon in BP reduction—named such because when the BP is plotted against the incidence of cardiovascular complications like heart attack, stroke and cardiovascular death, the pattern is like the letter J wherein the upper limb of J is identical to the right. It indicates that reducing the BP also reduces complications shown by the descending limb of J but if BP is reduced too low, complications start to go up again paradoxically.

Within a certain range usually up to a systolic BP of around 120 mmHg, the risk of complications such as heart attack and stroke goes down proportionately with the BP but apparently beyond a certain point (about) researchers are still trying to delineate, there is a paradoxical increase in the cardiovascular risk, especially in diabetics. This seems to be true both for the systolic and diastolic BP. The diastolic BP shows a cut-off point in the vicinity of 70-75 mmHg.

Definitely, a BP of 140/90 mmHg or higher needs treatment either using nondrug (lifestyle change) or an (drug) pharmacologic therapy but clinicians should be cautious also of being too aggressive in reducing the BP since it might do more harm than good. A fundamental concept in Medicine is "Primum non nocere" (First do no harm).

Dancing as a form of exercise

Sprinkling of nondrug or lifestyle change as a means of helping reduce the BP, the Philippine Society of Hypertension in collaboration with Novartis Healthcare Philippines supported by the Department of Health, Philippine Heart Association and Philippine Society of Nephrology has been carrying "Healthy Weight, Healthy Blood Pressure" campaign, and they launched the Healthy Weight Exercise contest. Dancing as a form of exercise helps reduce one's weight, adds to one's physical fitness, makes a great stress-busting regimen and even improves one's overall mental outlook.

A total of 32 video entries consisting of 126 participants for the three categories—young adults (21-34 years old), middles (35-59 years old) and seniors (60 years and above).

The board of judges, headed by dancesercise guru Regina Velordo, whose nine winning routines per category. Among the judges were PSH president Dr. Andrea Ingalos, DHA president Dr. Eleanor Lopez, past PSH president Dr. Belen Catalan, who's a top-class ballroom dancer; DOH representative Penny Cariaso, Novartis Healthcare Philippines corporate affairs and market access director Christine Liwanag and Novartis Healthcare Philippines representative Ismeh Bernard Arranged.

The sparkling ceremony will be on July 29. The top three winners per category will perform their winning dancercise routine. Regine Tolentino will also grace the event with a special dance demo.

Previous articles: http://opinion.inquirer.net/cgi-bin/cgiwrap/rafcast/archive.cgi?1 I think I'll dance to that.

A 'yellow' lining in fight vs cancer

By Tonia R. Salazar

THERE'S a silver lining in the spice for cancer prevention. Well, make that yellow.

Known for thousands of years in Chinese and Ayurveda medicine for its healing, curcumin, the chemical responsible for yellow ginger's color, is now being seriously studied by Western scientists for its anti-inflammatory properties.

In the latest years, researchers, medical professionals and scientists have found curcumin to have a substantial effect on many diseases including any disease that is spiking up in the global incidence chart in recent decades, cancer.

Curcumin, scientists have observed, apparently counters the inflammation that seems common to many growth. Reader's Digest's "Food Cure (Healing through Nutritional Prescriptions for everything from Colds to Cancer)" has noted that curcumin is thought to work in much the same way as brussels and cauliflower do to deter the body of cancer-causing carbon dioxide gas. Take DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and it repair already damaged DNA.

Laboratory studies

The "Food Cure" book, which cancels medical doctors, dietitians and professors from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States' Harvard Medical School and Yale University as its consultants, cited laboratory studies that show turmeric helps stop the growth and spread of cancer cells.

Among the types of cancers curcumin seems to work best on are colon cancer and melanoma (the deadliest form of skin cancer). UC researchers at Rutgers University in New Jersey are investigating the combination of curcumin and phenethyl isothiocyanate (for anal cancer compound in cruciferous vegetables) to the hopes of enhancing curcumin's effect on the disease.

Bharat B. Aggarwal, PhD, chief of the Cytokine Research Laboratory, Department of Experimental Therapeutics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, revealed to this writer several studies he wrote or co-wrote on curcumin.

One of the latest, "Curcumin and colorectal cancer: Add Spice to Your Life" (co-written and posted with Ajaikumar Kunnumakkara, PhD, and Sridevee Ghosh, MS), PhD showed curcumin being able to suppress the survival, proliferation, invasion, angiogenesis and metastasis of colon cancer cells through the regulation of various cell signaling pathways and biomarkers such as nuclear factor-kB, guanylate cyclase-activating receptor-y, early growth response-1, B-catenin, mitogen-activated protein kinase, cyclin D1, peroxisomal growth factor receptor, B-arrestin, cyclooxygenase-2, 4-lipoxygenase, EAD1/CD1, p21, Elk-ell lipophosphatase, basal cell lymphoma-vitae large, and osteopontin.

The study also described curcumin as being able to sensitize tumors to chemotherapy and radiation. It also caused antimelanoma the effect of curcumin to molecular targets in colon cancer, metabolism of curcumin in rat and human microbes as well as chemoprevention against colon cancer.

Some caveats

There are, however, some caveats. Aggarwal's various journals point to curcumin's low bioavailability, which means curcumin is poorly absorbed by the body.

Other sources noted that some curcumin supplements using piperine (black pepper) to increase bioavailability can make adverse side effects if taken with other pharmaceutical medications. And those suffering from hepatitis or gallbladder issues must approach curcumin and piperine with caution, for they may need to consult first with professionally informed medical professionals.

Though integrating curcumin with piperine (black pepper) is the consistently accepted practice to improve absorption, Natural News shares other methods of increasing bioavailability, such as combining curcumin with cold-pressed oils, coconut oil, organic butter, ghee, raw milk or organic cottage cheese.

Natural News, a nonprofit collection of public education websites covering health, among others, posted a study conducted by researchers from the University of Michigan. Comprehensive Cancer Center and published in the journal Breast Cancer Research and Treatment showing natural chemicals found in the spices turmeric and black pepper appear to stop the growth of breast tumors.

Positive effects of Vitamin C on health

VITAMIN C, perhaps one of the most popular supplements, is famously known as ascorbic acid.

Medical research and scientific experiments consistently show the positive effects of vitamin C on human health, particularly its effects on the immune system.

The immune system is composed of different kinds of cells that help the body stay healthy and recover from illness. Vitamin C is essential in maintaining its integrity.

Scientific studies have shown time and again that vitamin C helps in faster recovery from infections, better response to wound healing, and improved natural defenses against cancer.

The convenience of a supplement packed with immune boosters that can be just as good as fruits and vegetables can be found in ascorbic acid Cocon.

Knowing what's in your vitamin C helps ensure that you take the right kind of supplements. Ascorbic acid Cocon, the trusted Vitamin C brand, emphasizes its message of "Everyday Cocon, Everyday Protection."

With ascorbic acid Cocon in your body's arsenal of protection, you can be scared of a strong immune system and get protected from colds and infections every day.

From preference to permanence

DISCOVER

Maxsie Santos Rudon

HEELED SHOES and I have an uneasy agreement: I don't try to be a few inches taller in return for the ability to walk from Point A to Point B without fear of tripping. I know other people are capable of running errands all day in heels, some have been heard to say they're so used to the footwear that they can't wear anything else.

A new study indicates that constantly wearing heels might carry a personal preference into the pan intended for the sole opinion.

Marcio Nardi and colleagues from Bahiana's Mandeiros Metropolitan University had heard of stories about women complaining that their feet hurt when they switched from wearing high-heeled shoes to flats.

Find changes

"I thought it was an experiment which was inadvertently being done by women," Nardi said in a statement. "What we could do was test high-heel wearers to see if we could find some changes in the calf muscle."

The calf muscle the researchers are interested in is also known as the gastrocnemius muscle and it's connected to the heel by the Achilles tendon. When the muscles just behind the knee at the back of the leg flex, you're seeing the gastrocnemius muscle at work. This muscle raises the heel, so when a woman wears heeled shoes, her calf muscle is shorter than it would be if she were wearing normal shoes.

Nardi and his colleagues used the first to test the studies about the effects of switching from heels to flats, but the team's hypothesis focused on the theory that constantly wearing shoes with athletic heels had a long-term effect on calf muscles.

To test their theory, the researchers collaborating with Robert Crease of the University of Vienna and Indiana University used 20 women who'd been wearing shoes with heels for an average of three hours a day, more than two inches high regularly—for at least 10 hours and five days a week—during the past two years. Several dozen women volunteered for the study, and the final group of 11 participants who said they felt uncomfortable walking in less

Looking into the future of buildings

Text and photos by Charles E. Rubio

A VISIT to the World Expo in Shanghai, China, is not complete without dropping by the French Pavilion, a 6,000-square-meter building that features steel lattice external structure and "French-style" hanging garden inside.

Dubbed as "Seminal City" by its designer, architect Jacques Ferrier, the building of late a new type of urban construction that according to Lafarge, embodies the company's vision of an innovative and sustainable architecture (Lafarge is one of the major suppliers to the Expo as well as partner of the French Pavilion).

"The building addresses the Expo's theme 'Better City, Better Life' by offering a new type of urban construction. It presents numerous architectural innovations as well as present innovative, environment-friendly solutions, adapted to the problems faced by Chinese cities," comments Bruno Lafont, Lafarge chair and CEO during his tour of the building.

Located in Zone C across from the Germany Pavilion, the French Pavilion appears to be a white floating palace wrapped in wire mesh made of a special concrete and crowned sculptures.

THE FRENCH Pavilion provides a unique opportunity to reinforce France's image in China and the world.

THE FRENCH Pavilion designer says the enveloping lattice structure serves as the over-hat carries the whole weight of the building.

ARCHITECT Ferrier explains that "The Seminal City" presents one of France's contributions to sustainable urban development.

THE FRENCH Pavilion was built as shining example of energy efficiency and recycling techniques (some here are the solar panels installed on the roof).

VISITORS will be greeted by the pavilion's centerpiece: a hanging wall of greenery.

Advance materials

The whole complex was built using advanced building materials and environmental protection technology such the roof covered not only decked with plants but also a series of solar panels that will generate electricity for the building.

Aside from the ground level, the pavilion could be seen as if floating (or water). As one moves the building's impressive lattice work not only serves as a visual spectacle but also structurally supports the whole weight of the building it envelops.

Inside, Ferrier says the vertical garden symbolizes the six senses: taste, touch, smell, sight, hearing and balance/movement.

"When you visit this beautiful pavilion, you will be welcomed by walls that are covered in plants, looking like a green floating palace. The gardens on top serves as the centerpiece of the pavilion," describes Ferrier, adding that the vertical gardens feature a French restaurant called Cuisine Sens (The Sixth Sense) that allows diners to watch the chefs at work or enjoy the garden's scenery.

In the center of the structure stands a French-style garden with water fountains that create space for visitors to enjoy the merging of birds, the scent of flowers and exotic food. The design embodies the historic effect and the concept of balance.

The architect adds that except for the escalator that brings visitors to the top floor, the building affects no stairs since the floors are gradually slanted to allow pedestrians to do the ground floor in just a few minutes of walking inside the building.

The World Expo 2010 is open until the end of October 2010.

DMCI Homes launches resort-inspired condominium project in Fairview

DMCI HOMES, the property development unit of construction firm DM Consunji Inc., recently launched The Redwoods, a resort-inspired condominium project that is expected to be a major landmark in Barrio Fairview, Quezon City.

Pharmin Oliveros, DMCI Homes' director for sales, said The Redwoods project is a pioneering activity for the company because it is their initial property development move in Fairview. "We consider this a new frontier for DMCI Homes in Quezon City."

DMCI Homes recently launched The Redwoods, its newest project in Quezon City

Great prospects

Oliveros said the prospects for The Redwoods are great because Fairview is known as the booming part of the Quezon City and Bulacan areas. Furthermore, The Redwoods is strategically located along the Tandang Sora Avenue in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

DMCI Homes is eyeing the middle-class market based in Quezon City, Caloocan and Bulacan as prospective buyers for The Redwoods. However, it wants to give people a choice in upgrading the living environment, where there is safety and security.

Optimistic

DMCI Homes has high hopes on the Redwoods because of the presence of pockets of middle class developments in near-by part of the metropolis. "We are optimistic that all units in this first Fairview project will be sold out in one year," Oliveros added.

The Redwoods will have total of 906 units built in five mid-rise buildings. Oliveros said the first building will be ready for occupancy in March 2011 while other buildings, Mira, Ilum, Itul and Iora will also be finished on the same year.

In a span of 10 years, DMCI Homes has been building the most comfortable, resort-type communities for urban dwellers.

Other projects

Other well-known projects of DMCI Homes include Brentwood Palace and Royal Palace Residence in Tagaig City; and Magnolia Place in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. DMCI Homes' aquil greenh can be attributed to its thrust to continuously delight its customers.

DMCI Homes is the country's premier triple A builder-developer that brings serviced, themed communities within reach of urban families who since had limited residential options, but still aspire to achieve a resort-like, enriching quality of life proximate to their place of work.

Fast-tracking dev't in Laguna . . .

Pconnguyi B3-4

CAMELLIA at Don Rio: Carmela model home—modern living at an affordable price

Moving through transition spaces

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

LAURA'S thought of it as to read choreography the whole experience of moving through spaces.

Just as dancers' limbs dictate through the air as they express their art form, so too does the eye of an observer cut through spaces to experience form and space as it contacts with every block, turn and roll of the eye.

And now, as when our bodies move with it as we move forward with our steps and shift from one space into another, to human beings pacing about our daily activities, we hardly or not stand still, and yet when we do, our eyes still wander.

Often ignored

Movement patterns are an element often ignored in the design of spaces. Just as the city has its roadways, interior spaces have hallways and transition zones that serve as either connect activities that are similar in nature, or to disengage activities that would otherwise be conflicting in purpose when placed too close together. While most of these linkages are horizontal, there are also vertical links like staircases, escalators and elevators to serve the same purposes of transitioned movement.

Because they are thought of as "in-between," these areas are often not too thought out in terms of design. It is often because they have no real presence and no real function or reason/s. Despite the functional considerations, "transfer" nodes for the upkeep of continuous ground, there is sadly a lack of conscious interest about making for the spaces that are in between.

When designing these transition spaces, the main concern is usually the ease of functionality. After all, no one is expected to linger, only to come through quite often, bringing about some end task to the personal or private spaces though, we can get a little more effort in making these areas of seeming flukes, into spaces to showcase instead.

Ways to infuse interest

There are many ways to infuse interest into these connection spaces. For one, there is always the simplest solution of adorning it's bare wall with artwork, photos, decorative accessory and other items that could be hanged. But these does not necessarily have to be the only solution. In fact, it is usually the of unthought of.

While still in the design phase, other elements can "decorate" an otherwise bland transition space. The owners is really to molding the space with the use of the enclosure it self: the walls, floors and ceilings. These planes of separation are often conducive to the form of dropped beams or soft lights in the ceiling, or the texture of recessed light fixtures, or patterns on the floor material. They can also be wall elements that have a certain relief from the surface and use them top to bottom to give the wall some depth, texture and scale.

Lighting can also create a similar effect when mounted on the wall or when it throws light up from the floor. When along the exterior perimeter, natural light and openings can be utilized to create patterns on the wall and on the floor, giving the sensation of natural light, and this can also be done from the ceiling!

Suggest direction

Elements that run along the direction of the space can suggest direction and movement, visually pulling one and into the other and setting the path for movement with the help of the eyes following the visual forces. Implosions at the end of the transition space can also transform into length and propel one forward visually making the travel seem shorter than it actually is.

Vaulted or curved walls and ceilings can also break length and set spaces free, or visually so that a path need not feel like one straight line, and the space need not feel like a rigid box with no sensory value. Colors, when played with the picture elements, can add depth or enhance the lines that form and light have already created. It can even be its own feature when applied in a loud hue or in an overwhelming scale.

Transition areas need not be boring, they can be fun: easing others to another through. Let your eyes dance. Walk its way.

AN EXTREME yet artistic approach to rendering a transition space.

PERSPECTIVE: A picture is clearer the length of this hallway

Editor Cesar D. Manzanero
PROPERTY

Sunshine industries to keep economy afloat

Text and photo by Erwinan Cena

THERE ARE reasons to be festive amid the looming storms and impending water crisis that have greeted the new Peñoy administration.

The main reason is that the pipeline for mirror-building has included real estate and tourism sectors as top priorities of his change-oriented government. Another reason is that there are already many foreign investors are showing interest in the tourism and real estate potentials of the Philippines for the global market.

These two are the sunshine industries that we need to take advantage of, said Rosemarie Rasa, vice president of the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Associations International Foundation (Cheba Int'l), in an exclusive interview with Inquirer Property on Thursday.

"The future looks promising and bright for the Philippines if we explore and tap full potentials of these two industries as an engine of growth," she said. To do this, we must be able to attract bigger numbers of global tourists into our country who will pour in their funds into our economy, she added.

Rasa presided Inquirer Property a sneak preview into the coming Philippine Real Estate Festival which will run from July 29 to 31 at the World Trade Center in Manila. The festival, which has for its theme "Global Trends and Real Estate Opportunities: Incentive Industries for the Philippine Economy," will gather major players and industry leaders in the tourism and real estate sectors.

Ibfdi: "The festival's objective is to encourage investments in the tourism sector as it is viewed as the twin engines of growth of the national economy: housing and urban development and the local and global tourism."

Potent force

The festival will bring into focus the importance of real estate and tourism to keep the economy afloat, she said. The two industries are interrelated and deserving of paramount concern as they have become a potent force in driving the economy forward.

Rasa, who is this year's festival chair, emphasized that 60 percent of the tourists to destroy consist of real estate so they too are inevitably a decisive factor in forging a picture of a rosy economy.

The development of the real estate is always anchored on tourism-related projects, she said. This includes building tourism-friendly amenities and places conducive for relaxation and entertainment. This would include building efficient and world-class hotels and resorts, retirement villages, condominium centers, wellness and medical centers and other leisure and recreational amenities.

"While we build real estate projects, we are also doing tourism," Rasa said. So far, the Philippines with 90 million population has only dismal some 2.6 million tourists while its neighboring countries Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore registering between 10 and 30 million tourist arrivals yearly.

Can the Philippines break past the 4-million mark? Rasa refused a resounding "No!" but said the whole project will need concerted efforts both from public and private sectors. The newly-enacted Tourism Act of 2009 will provide the tourism policy and legislative initiatives in this direction, she furthered.

Local government units and government officials also should straighten their acts and each red tape in the application of permits and licenses to build, Rasa noted. The grueling job of securing permits and paying the obligations have stained the mind-set of Filipinos and foreign investors alike. Red tape and corruption in government offices are warding off business interests, she quipped.

The festival, which will feature about 175 booths of major developers and their subsidiaries, are expected to draw some 25,000 people including overseas Filipino workers. Proceeds of the festival will benefit some 200 families in Bankuan, Antipolo, who will receive basic livelihood seminars and 2 hectares of land to foster it.

Real estate and tourism experts from the Philippines and other countries will speak at various sessions throughout the three-day event at SMX. Invited are foreign dignitaries from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Australia, China and Turkey among others. President Aquino is also expected to deliver a keynote address on the opening day. An evening of Asian food, dance and music will happen in the second day.

For there's more to the pomp and pageantry that a festival such as this provides.

3-day property sale

Also part of the festival is a three-day property sale which will feature house and lots, condo units and other properties at special prices and easier terms. Also offered at discounted prices are subsidized, low-cost housing from top developers like Int. Migpal Properties, Crown Asia, Filinvest, Ortigas, Megaworld, Robinsons Land, Century Properties, Makiber, Cathay Land, Eastern Land, Rico Properties, Crown Asia, Camella Homes, Makiber Realty and Fairways and Blue Points.

A fresh feature of the PREF is the launch of the design showcase which will range various projects and fields of innovation and creativity of students from among the best schools in the Philippines such as University of the Philippines, Ateneo, University of Santo Tomas, De La Salle University and Mapua. The design showcase is expected to create synergies between ideas from the students, expertise from interesting professionals and future employers in meaningful exchanges of concepts from the classroom to real-world setting.

For the second year, PREF will again host an outstanding men and women behind the real estate development in the country in its 2nd PREF Excellence Awards that recognizes the people who worked behind the limelight—the technical and structural team behind the greatest real estate projects in the country.

AHEAD Experiencing may increase the occurrence of lightning. According to recent studies, each degree of increase in global mean temperature will result in a 10- to 20- percent increase in the amount of lightning. PHOTO BY ERWINAN CENA

Global warming and lightning

THERE ARE many symbols or misconceptions about lightning. Some say that lightning will never strike twice in the same place. Others are think that lightning will always strike the highest point. Still others say that their home is safe because it has never been struck. The owners of their individual residence is will never happen to him/her.

Just exactly what do we know about lightning and how do we deal with it?

Perhaps the first thing we need to realize is that new research reveals that rising temperatures may increase the occurrences of lightning. According to studies made in Brazil, each degree of increase in global mean temperature will result in a 10- to 20-percent increase in the amount of lightning.

Why Brazil? In the last 10 years, Brazil has been the target of an estimated 57 million lightning strikes...the most in the world. Over 1,200 people have fallen victim to lightning in Brazil alone.

Lightning produced by strong storms also account for more forest fires which in turn release carbon dioxide fueling a continuous cycle.

A research institute estimates that 20 percent of all power outages are lightning-related with total costs approaching $1 billion.

How lightning is formed:

Lightning comes from thunderclouds, which form when hot moist air rises into the atmosphere and condenses. The air rises when heated by the sun, creating water vapor into the sky. As it rises, the hot air mingles with colder air, and the moisture condenses into tiny droplets.

Clouds are created when these many droplets become visible. The droplets increase in size as the cloud grows and becomes heavy falling down as rain. Thunderclouds are large masses that cover miles across as the base and reach 40,000 feet or more into the atmosphere.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amando de Jesus

Protection from lightning

• A lightning protection system properly installed to architecture with the latest standard requirement is about 99 percent effective in preventing personal lightning damage. This specialized job is best done by a local established lightning protection installation company or contractor.

• A properly installed lightning protector system interrupts the lightning bolt between cloud and earth and harmlessly conducts it to ground without damage.

Safety tips

Lightning always accompanies thunderstorms. Here if lightning is not visible where you are, if you can hear thunder you are close enough to be struck by lightning.

• If you are caught outside, seek cover indoors immediately. Here, try and seek a lightning protection facility. The next best option is a steel-framed structure or other type of enclosed building. Do not sound sanitize a tree for cover. Trees generally are struck more frequently.

• Avoid metal objects such as fences, bleachers or rail poles. If swimming or boating, seek shelter as fast as quickly as possible. If caught in an open field, crouch low and keep your legs close together.

• When inside a home or building, stay away from doors and windows. Avoid staying near electric outlets, appliances and equipment. If thunderstorm is present, do not unplug TV's telephones, stereos, or other electrical appliances. Stay away from plumbing, avoid running water and do not take a shower or bath. Do not use a corded telephone during a storm except for emergency purposes.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amandodejesus@gmail.com.

Fast-tracking dev't in Laguna with Camella at Dos Rios

IN THE MIDST of vast tracts of sedate **bahia**, manufacturing plants and industrial parks hosting multinational corporations, the Cabuyao-Sta. Rosa-Calamba belt in Laguna has received one of the most energetic and trusted brands in the real property industry...a mass-scale subdivision in one of the fastest growing provinces south of Manila. Camella Homes recently launched Camella at Dos Rios, bringing Laguna's phenomenal expansion to greater heights as its presence truly complements and completes the development of this community.

Providing homes that offer true value and quality investment, Camella at Dos Rios exemplifies the pioneering spirit that has driven Camella, the leader in affordable housing segment, to become the largest home builder in the country today. The development, a partnership with the Ramos Realty Development of the Subi family, brings together two of the most prominent and trusted names in business known for their passion for details, leadership in growth and a vision for progress.

Mediterranean architecture

Inspired by the Mediterranean architecture, this sea-kissed property offers 20 hectares of master-planned community that truly responds to the varied needs of its homeowners. From starting families to professionals and even empty-nesters, Camella at Dos Rios provides well-planned homes that truly suit the space in ensuring a comfortable home that grows with its owner.

Furthermore, Camella at Dos Rios offers a wide range of amenities that its homeowners and guests can enjoy. This includes a clubhouse, basketball court, swimming pool, parks and playgrounds and parking facilities. The property also offers 24-hour security, a perimeter fence for protection and an entrance gate to welcome its residents. Keeping in mind the homeowners' added convenience, safety and security, a shuttle service is also available to take them to and from places of interest outside the community.

"Camella at Dos Rios completes the presence of Vista Land in Laguna," said Camella President Maribeth C. Tolentino. "With its presence, we now offer the full range of housing options which includes Brittany and Crown Asia. More importantly, the presence of Camella is considered a strong hallmark of progress in the region.

Helping push growth of cities

"Camella and Vista Land, in general, are known for walking not just the same we build our communities so but for helping

FAST TRACKING B3

PR Kitchens Inc.

HomeTrek* TC JUST GOT BETTER!

Now in new improved and convenient packaging

Hometrek *TC protects your home against termites

• Tried, Tested Through The Years • Binds Strongly with Soil • Strong Killing Action Inside...

GOODBYE ANAY!

Jardine Distributors, Inc.

2b LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Stefanie Cabal
E-mail: lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Tell us your feedback: inquirer.net/cgi-bin/mailmsg.cgi/MO

BPI Let's make it easy!
Savor Spanish flavors when you dine at Casa Armas!
For a sumptuous spread of:
At least P5,000 FREE Pollo Al Ajillo
At least P5,000 FREE Medium Sangria
Casa Armas
Real Thrills!
BPI Express Credit
FREE Pollo Al Ajillo

College in the time of storms

By Czes de Leon
Student correspondent,
University of the Philippines, Mindanao

'Hello, Ched! Nababasa din ang college students. Hindi naman sila waterproof'

IT'S QUITE COMMON. A storm rolls into this country and it is announced that classes are suspended for pre-school, grade school, high school and... that's it! College students are left to pray and cross their fingers. If the announcement doesn't come (or if it comes too late), they have no choice but to venture out into torrential rains, cold, whipping winds, and seas of flood to attend crucial lectures, take exams, and beat deadlines.

As one of my professors posted in her Facebook status: "Hello Ched, nababasa din ang college students. Hindi naman sila waterproof."

Several of her friends replied:

"Eh ang runtin't-utak6ni, nababasa din pa ba?"

"Lalo na ngaun ang Holi-ondoon!"

"Pati ang power ng private computers!"

It is somewhat ironic that college students are the last priority when it comes to cancellation of classes, especially since I distinctly remember life being a lot more accelerated during the lower years of education. Dad (and later on, the school bus) drove me to and from school. I watched the wind whip the trees and the torrential rain through a glass window.

And once I got inside the school building, I was even safer. I didn't have to leave the snug shelter of school until the school bus arrived to bring me and the other kids back home. Children are usually well taken care of by their parents. And in the rare cases that they're not, they're at least safely in daycare once they get to school.

Braving the storm

College students are left to fend for themselves. The battle starts with commuting to the terrible beasties. You learn that umbrellas only keep you dry from your knees up at the very least. You learn how badly our roads, drainages, sidewalks and overpasses are constructed. Some puddles and floods are so vast that you have to go through them. You learn that unless you're wearing flippers, if the waters seeps into your shoes, your feet will stay wet and cold for the rest of the day.

And I really wish I could say that the battle ends once we get to school, but I go to UP Diliman. It is common to have to walk from one distant building to another, across the two-kilometer Academic Oval, sometimes even further, up and down side roads, in order to attend all my classes for the day. There are jeepneys, sure, but we all know how inconvenient and slippery public jeepney rides are on rainy days—and you don't emerge from those dry either. I'm sure anybody who studies in a big campus can relate.

Biology major Bianca Gerson recalls trudging to the Amoranto Gym: I amidst the roaring wind, hard rain and puddle splashes from passing vehicles. She walked through murky, olive-green flood waters that got into her shoes and soaked her jeans to the hips. She was determined not to cut class, but when she couldn't get a tricycle ride, she gave up and walked to her friend's dorm room. She then learned that classes were just recently suspended and spent the rest of the day drying her shoes and jeans and barking half

COLLEGE/C2

ALL IT TAKES TO REACH THE WORLD IS JUST ₱2
Text for only ₱2 to these countries: U.S. (Main), Canada, Singapore, U.A.E., Hong Kong, Malaysia, Macau, Japan, Qatar and Brunei
Text 40 other countries for only ₱5
Countries include: China, Australia, Hawaii, Thailand, India, Guam, Indonesia, Saipan, Kuwait and Vietnam
Open to all Sun Prepaid subscribers
Promo period: May 1 – July 31, 2010
Hotline: 205-8000
www.suncellular.com.ph
SUN CELLULAR

SPORTS Central
FILA
SM City Baguio | SM City Batangas | SM City Dasmariñas | SM City Fairview
SM City Manila | SM Mall of Asia | SM City North Edsa | SM City Pampanga

FEU jerseys shine

Aldrech Ramos (L, from Rooster) 3, 28 Canseling 2.

"They're not the scores these boys have posted against the NU Bulldogs. They are the members on the jerseys sported on the bleachers!

The girls say they've not even from FEU, but they are friends of the players. Their generosity to the fans seems to score them karma points as the Tamaraws still lead the pack, pending one loss.

Adamson on track

Fans of the Adamson Soaring Falcons cheer after their team beat the UP Fighting Maroons. Their only loss so far was to perennial favorite Ateneo de Blue Eagles. If their consistent performances continues, they may make it to the Final Four.

UST still got the rhythm

UST Tigers' fans still groove as one when they cheer "Go Usa!" The Tigers slugged it out with the Ateneo Blue Eagles until the last quarter when they lost it. They almost lost it to UP Fighting Maroons but on opposite days, Bong's level-best forced the season's first overtime. While two wins under their belt, they're still not in almost their old self.

The faces *on the bleachers*

Fans in full force to support their school

Text and photos by Ruth L. Navarro

THROW ANY your pre-season favorites in the fan bowls of University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) action, the league has stayed true to character: zero losers could beat another, say day, any time. And it's the fans who stand witness to this exciting history.

UP still groping for form

The UP Pep squad is always outstanding to cheer about. It's a good thing the pep squad is there to liven things up. Their performance to Coldplay in last Saturday's game kept the fans clamoring for more.

The promise that the Fighting Maroons has shown in the off season is not to be fulfilled in season 73. Coach Aboy Castro went on leave for personal reasons leaving the team under the guidance of Pete De Vera and Boyet Fernandez. There's a spirit of hope though, from their rookie player Mike Silangcos.

Ateneo: It's all in the family.

Cristine Dizon, Ateneo High School and grade school mood set in the crowd during the Blue Eagles' battle against the UST Tiger Cubs. They wore their school color on their heads to show how much they love their school. The Eagles emerged on top but that day.

UE: It's all about the effort

These girls taking up Accountancy took the time to make the placards big enough for their team to see from the court. They didn't stop cheering even as their team trailed behind the Green Archers. The UE Red Warriors have yet to win a game, but anyway, they're known to peak at the right moment.

DLSU gets romantic

Simon Atlatis was showered with birthday greetings by his girlfriend and her family. The fans even sang a birthday song for the embarrassed captain of the De la Salle Green Archers after the game against UE. He probably celebrated it happily after the Archers' domination over the Red Warriors.

NU: Whipping boys no more.

Fans of the NU Bulldogs have plenty of things to look forward to. Invte, they got only one win, so far, but, they made it over the Green Archers and they did it convincingly. They even gave the heavily-favored FEU Tamaraws quite scream in the first three quarters.

It's the school spirit!

Interviews and photos by Carlos Conanan
Contributor

HOW DO you express your school spirit? Did it shocked me last season's UAAP opening to see how students manifest their pride of school.

Some of our favorites:

"By participating in all school activities at any cost!"— Irene R. de Ramos, 19, Adamson University

"By watching the games and encouraging our school actively, too." — Roberto Garcia, 18 and Darwin A. Pua, 18, University of the East

"By cheering our loud and lively, big boys, supporting our team." — Jasmin Easton, 17 and Raul Lorrian Sia, 16, University of the East

"By cheering and supporting all the activities in our school, and by simply being proud of our school." —Maryann M. Yabut, 17 and Joy Lorraine Limotolo, 16, University of the East

"Attending school games and cheering."—Alexa Brandao Lerbi, 14 and Vida Alvarez, 16, University of Santo Tomas

"Buying school stuff, attending fairs, and watching UAAP."—Darlene Kyna Gayon, 14/Krizia Hylene Figueroa, 15; Alyana de Jesus, Ateneo de Manila University

"By religiously attending and joining each event and buying as much UP paraphernalia as possible." —Ariana Bonjayon, 16; Andrea Sumaoang, 17; Bea Jaafa, 17; Milka Marquez, 19, University of the Philippines

"We show our school spirit by supporting our college every chance we get, cheering for them and attending the games." —Mylene Go, 16; Adrianne Tan-Gotoe, 19; Hillary Yu, 16, De La Salle University

"By going to UAAP games! Go UP!" —Lotis Castillo, University of the Philippines

#FEUPRIDE Liz Adrienne Tan-Quiton and Hillary Yu

ARGH! Hanalei Lorbi and Vida Alvarez

KENDRIX. de Ramos with Adli Hassib

EUNICE Kyna Gayon, **Krizia Hylene Figueroa** and **Alyana de Jesus**

DARWIN Easton and **Raul Lorrian Sia**

ARIANA Bonjayon, **Andrea Sumaoang, Bea Zarra** and **Milka Marquez**

ORIETTE Garcia and **Darwin A. Pua**

College in the time of storms

Front page C1

hot lucky in a big hostile ed ul. cubicl.

No mercy

There are also instances wherein despite the cancellation of classes, certain faculty member still require their students to show up. A certain Professor Gilbera, and his group mates pick through rubble a major report. It was raining hard the previous night, so their group mates from hopeless couldn't make it.

Christian and his remaining group mate had to deliver the hour-long report on their own, reviewing the parts that belonged to their group mates. His remaining group mate even broke down and started crying from all the stress. And after braving the stormy weather to get to class, their professor decided to cancel because there were only four of them in the room.

Speaking of Espeña, it is hard to top other UST students' stories to go through the stormy days. They literally have to wade through flood to get to school and complain that UST only cancels classes once the flood water reaches the building. God knows what is in those waters. A friend of mine, Mary Cielo, narrated how he stood on the "shore" scrutinizing whether he would go over or not.

And when he finally did jump in, he looked to his right and saw a huge, black sewer rat, as big as a cat, swimming in his direction. "That's how I learned that rats know how to dog paddle," he told us.

So you see, college students generally suffer more on stormy days because we're more exposed to the elements. We are not waterproof, enough; solid lovers (the proof, leptospirosis-proof, and all the other imagined monstrosities that people think we have.

And yes, we catch each other's sicknesses as well. Sometimes the cost of studying in school on a stormy day is running out on succeeding meetings because we've come down with something. It's self-defeating, really. And we would appreciate if the authorities of class suspension also kept all this in mind. Oh hello, Chan!

CO-CAPTAIN Jara Annin, president RC Sibarra and team captain Leanne Bayubonda

DE LA SALLE Zobel takes cheerleading rather seriously

Loud and proud to be Green

By Paul Palmares
Correspondent

DE LA SALLE Santiago Zobel School takes cheering very seriously. Not nearly cheerleading team, its cheering arm, the DLSZ Pep Squad, has been in since during games.

Harping loud and proud with the cheers (for who have answered its call to arms), the squad has long enjoyed legendary support from rabid cheering fans.

But then again, cheering is no rocket science—it is the most basic show of support one can offer one's alma mater. It does not physically require much: one can cheer anywhere, anytime with anyone. Which is why this year isn't very much like any other year for cheering.

Last month, DLSZ joined 30 other La Salle schools in a yearlong countdown...capped by another masterclass by La Salle University's hosting of this year's 72nd UAAP season...towards the historic celebration of 100 years of La Salle in the Philippines.

Six other group faces tremendous pressure more than the DLSZ Pep Squad, which rallied and adjusted to address in the annual pep rally last July 9. It is highly symbolic of the squad's strong position in the school's sports development.

Energized squad

The squad is "fierce, fierce, energized," said coach Kilmon Mendoza, whose appointment comes at a turning point in the squad's 20th anniversary. "This is a great challenge for us ... to prove here for the squad has gone in terms of skills and preparation of the Lasallian identity," said Mendoza.

The squad is composed of highly energetic cheerleaders and drummers. Together, they proudly carry the La Salliac colors in one lengths. Known for their synchronized dance steps and skillful pompom handling, the cheer leaders remain a picture of grace under pressure.

Popular for their trademark moves and beats, the pep boys and drummers provide that extra kick to every routine. Coach Mendoza's vision is strongly aligned with those of the squad's key officers, mostly perky 14-year old sixteenites.

Go cheer!

President RC Sibarra on the Lasallian anniversary and DLSZ's role:

"It is very significant because this year's games and performances will show the progressive excellence we, Lasallians, demonstrate and achieve. These events will define what La Salle has become through the years."

Captain Leanne Bayubonda on her position as squad captain:

"It is a big challenge. I have to keep my squad together at all times. I should motivate, discipline, respect and understand each and everyone. I enjoy every minute of it because I love my squad, and I believe that they can do great things."

Co-captain Jara Annin on the best part about being a DLSZ cheerleader:

"The best part of being a Zobel cheerleader would probably be the opportunities to cheer for an institution that has already proven itself and still is continuing to make everyone proud."

Head cheerleader Gabe Escay on the 72nd UAAP season's honour theme:

"It's a great thing since honours have been in existence for years and honours are made. It is basically a good thing since we have somebody to look up to and be inspired by."

The DLSZ Pep Squad welcomes change, with a nod to tradition. Whether it's Sweet-tea Kaya, La Salle Spelling, Bridesmaids or any other well-loved Lasallian chant, a renewed sense of pride, honor and glory will always fire up that good old school spirit.

Hear it from them

What's your Top 3 sources of inspiration in cheerleading?

"Dad because he's given me this chance and the skills. My friends and friends in the squad support. And the people that think pep isn't important, they really inspire me to prove them wrong." —RC Sibarra, president

"The audience, that being able to hear their cheers and screams is just the best feeling! Precision. ULSZ. Hip hopinds.

Jessing Javier, coach pride they have given the school challenges me to live up to what they have already established, separates mine. Also the YouTube cheerleading videos. Jessy her they inspire me to think outside of the box and prove that anything can be done with proper training and practice." —Jara Annin, co-captain

What are your favorite La Salliac cheers?

"My favorite La Salliac cheers are Oswaldtoe, Arthurs, and Wiki thing. Those cheers are popular and the ones that usually pump up the crowd." —Steve Bayubonda, team captain

Niki Acosta, 23 years old
DLSU-CSB
"I always go for what's different. Something aesthetically pleasing but this country's clothing culture has still appeared on my original taste."
Full ensemble from okay-okay

Alyssa Marie Madrigal, 17 years old
DLSU-CSB
"I love wearing heels! I can build my confidence in it."
People ft People top, Kenneth Cole pants, vintage bag, necklace from Greenhills

Peter Padilla
DLSU-CSB
"Always be presentable wherever you go. I once wore my training clothes to Greenhills after playing sports... I'll never do that again!"
Top from A. Venue, Topshop shoes and pants, Prada bag

Style hunt

They don't compromise their unique style

Text and photos by Renan Cupil

Robert Escalona, 21 years old
DLSU-CSB
"Comfortability is my number one factor in dressing up."
Topre shoes, G-Shock watch

Anna Paragasso
DLSU-CSB
Zara top, pants, and shoes, Marc Jacobs Bella Tripodale and ring, GUESS cuff cocktail ring

Geoff Arenas, 18 years old
DLSU-CSB
"I browse through magazines to find inspirations when dressing up."
Adrenaline, top, and shorts, Vans shoes

Centennial countdown

La Salle's yearlong celebration of its 100th anniversary has begun

By Marianne S. Cruz
Student correspondent, De La Salle University
Photos by Jennifer Yu

LAST JUNE 26, De La Salle University started a 360-day countdown to its 100th year. It was a university-wide event, and everyone were given an advice slip, including the entire DLSU-M family to show support.

Classes were suspended from 9:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., so the students could participate and attend the celebration. The program started with Intramural's "Today's Gonna Be Good Day" music, a rendition of Black Eyed Peas' "I Gotta Feeling", accompanied by a dance number from student leaders from different organizations together with the La Salle Dance Company dancers.

The simple but fun program was packed and the crowd cheered as the dance number Green and white confetti filled the runway while the dancers welcomed everyone in the Central Plaza, where the program proper took place.

Different La Salle schools were presented and welcomed. The program also highlighted De La Salle University's history as well as the development and transition it has made throughout the century.

Pre-centennial celebration

To pump up the centennial Animo, UAAP pep rally was held a week before the centennial countdown celebration. On July 9, La Salle's UAAP athletes from various sports, including basketball, badminton, volleyball, judo and swimming, paraded on the Central Plaza.

There was the traditional torch lighting, where the torch was passed on from one team captain to another. The oath taking of the athletes, where they promise to practice good sportsmanship and preserved career to be abusive. There was also a fashion show segment, where selected students jumped their Centennial shirts.

As part of the men's basketball team's initiation, members cross-dressed and were sexy women's outfit. A lot of other teams had their own version of initiation. Some had their heads shaved, guys wore makeup for the segment, while others painted their face and wore accessories. The cheerleaders also performed with the squad for the first time.

Finally, the most awaited collegiate event, the UAAP Season 73, which happened the next day after the pep rally. La Salle hosts the season and the opening at the Araneta Coliseum, with a message of hope, with its banner as "Where dreams are made". This year, UAAP athletes are inspired as become because of their hard-work and dedication to sports.

UAAP opening

To make the celebration fun, each school's runners get a makeover and came alive through the school's respective representatives. They even had a short action-packed video to promote the mascots! The hero mascots were composed of Jacobo Lozano (football) for Ateneo Blue Eagles; Ken Balcoba (softball) for NU Bulldogs; Jarin Bonin (basketball) for Adamson Soaring Falcons; Donald Dilidoo (taekwondo) for UE Red Warriors; Jude Zafra (taekwondo) for UST Growling Tigers; Khonllan Legaspi (swimming) for UP Fighting Maroons; JC Labrador (volleyball) for FEU Tamaraws; and the crowd's favorite, Enrhong Dee (swimming) for La Salle Green Archers.

UAAP opening wouldn't be complete without song and dance numbers. The pep squad, LSDC, Xhirkles, and Brigada Dance Troupe showcased their dance talents. Dple Alvarez and Gary Valenciano paid tribute to its school with a duet. Gary Valenciano also sang and moved to the groove of "Humanap" with the Mascarenes, and backed up by La Salle dance troupes.

To cap it all off, the Green Archers had an 86-point lead over UP as the opening game. La Salle's basketball captain Rimon Atkins led the victory with an interesting 20-point contribution. Indeed, a good "game" day!

GO GREEN! Amphibicycles were packed for the celebration (above). La Salle's history was another highlight of the event.

super LIFESTYLE
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Pair Deal SUPREME
2 FAMILY PAN PIZZA, only P499 ALL-IN!
EXCLUSIVE FOR DELIVERY 911-11-11
Pizza Hut

American student gives the peso a makeover

LOST IN TRANSIT
Paolo R. Reyes

It's cool, unconventional, it's unsolicited, it's the buzz online

SHOW ME THE MONEY! Ryan Riegner's radical redesign of the peso

AT HIS age, he should be silk-screening "Earth, Swallow Me Now!" tees for the emo set. Or hand-painting a crusty, well-worn pair of Chuck Taylors. But Parsons School of Design student and Pennsylvania native Ryan Riegner, 22, has been the subject of 187 tweets for an unconventionally cool creation: his unsolicited makeover of the Philippine peso.

"Paper currency, regardless of its technical beauty, elegant craftsmanship, and immersion into everyday life, is one of the most eminently overlooked aspects of numismatic design," he wrote in his now-popular blog entry, "New Philippines Currency Design," on Ryanriegner.com. "So I chose to redesign some—and decided to go with the Philippines (pun)."

The New York-based graphic artist—a former Spin magazine [illegible] whose work has been featured in the book, "The Typist Image," and in design websites like [illegible].com.ar—added that he chose to focus on "applying governmental requirements, specific inquiry rules, and form that showcased both material and external associations with the island nation."

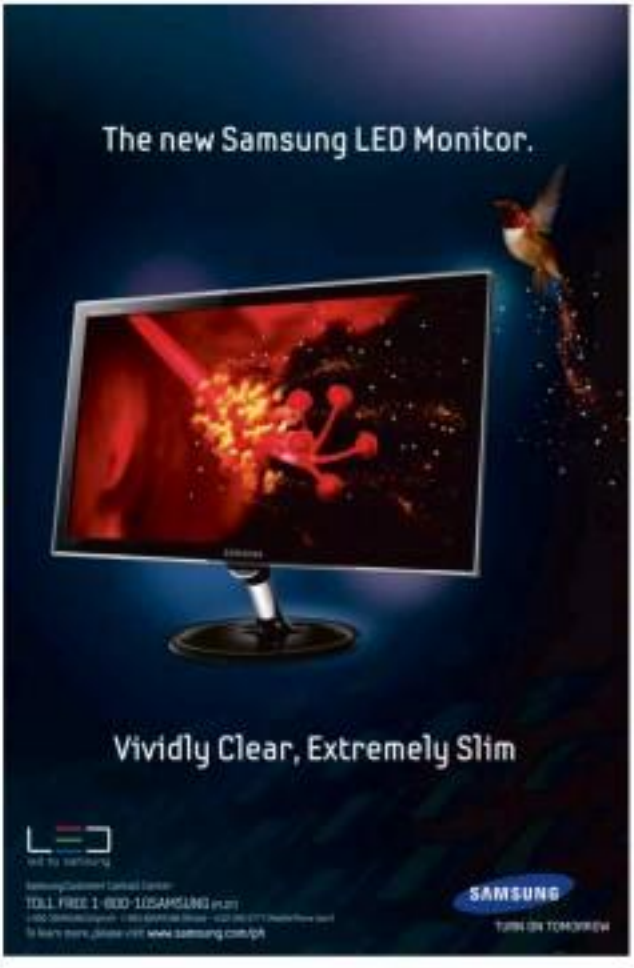
True enough, you'll find everything, from ripe yellow mangoes to Gen. Antonio Luna, stirred to his polychromatic resolve.

Despite a few flavorful flaws (he misspells "Bagobklihan" as "Bagobklihan," and labels his 500-piece Sinulog form note as a whopping "one-hundred thousand piso"!), Riegner's stalled design (proposed with a fresh, contemporary aesthetic to our backwater bills, whose basic blueprint has not changed in 30 years.

The recent online buzz directed at Riegner's currency designs is timely. The Numismatic

JUMP/PAGE D2

RIEGNER is a San Tadeo topic.



Graphics Design: Ruben Joshua Cardo

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Nandana brings new vibrance to Boracay

QUANTUM'S president John Cole

ESCAPE! ROMANCE PACKAGE AT MARRIOTT HOTEL MANILA

Let the good times flow in the elegant comforts of Marriott Hotel Manila with its Escape! Romance Package, infused with all the magical elements of a memorable getaway, take your love one to a sweet surrender of dining and relaxation for only $119++ a night (inclusive, valid until Dec. 15. Equipped with cozy soaking tubs, hours of bubbling fun, and the latest technology 40" flat-panel (FPTV) with remote Jack Pack plug-and-play system, every stay is surely a treat of ultimate luxury. Adding more excitement to the captivating moment is a bottle of sparkling wine to celebrate plus a P1,000 food and beverage (F&B) per person daily, valid in all outlets. Embrace a heartwarming moment of romance with this delightful escape offer.

'Rainy Day Getaway' promo at Courtyard Inn - Subic Bay

AT COURTYARD Inn - Subic Bay, rainy days are the best time for enjoying great moments with family and friends. Snuggling up beside your loved one on a cool rainy night while enjoying a delicious meal or watching a good movie is simply heavenly. Available in the Courtyard Inn's every room, Rates starts at only P2,262.50 net, you can have these great moments with family and friends at Courtyard Inn's tastefully furnished superior room. Or you may chose to have more space and avail the deluxe at P3,062net or in the executive suite for only P3,862.50 net. This "Rainy Day Getaway" promo includes two complimentary breakfasts at Jessi Restaurant and enjoy automatic discounts at Malvern's Jetsports, Aries Horseback ride and Bar, and Kirby's Grill (Subic). This promo is available from July 15 - Sept. 30, limit very room, watch out for their new building to serve you well. Experience all the more dimensions at Malvern's Jetsports like the Parasailing, The Pelican ride, Kayak and more. Call them at (047) 252-3465. For inquiries please call tel. nos. (047) 252-3366/68, fax no. (047) 252-3367; cell no. 0922-862-0154, Manila line (02) 891-4784 or e-mail at courtyard@subicbel.com. You can also visit the website at www.courtyardinn.subic.com

Caliraya Resort Club 10 Plus 1 promo

WHAT COULD be a better place to unwind and an escape than in a lakeside resort far from the hustle and bustle of the city? Located in Lumban, Laguna, Caliraya Re-Creation Center is a 7-Directors resort hotel complete with all the latest amenities. The resort provides a wholesome environment ideal for both morning invitations and family gatherings. Just two and a half hours south of Metro Manila, the resort is a short ferry boat ride from the shore of the pristine man-made Caliraya lake. All the 72 hotel rooms feature cable television, air-conditioning and hot/cold showers, while the lakeside duplexes offer 12-15 people a fascinating view of the lake and a short stroll to the watersport facilities such as pedals, wakeboards, windsurfing, and a whole lot more! Caliraya Re-Creation Center also provides meeting rooms as well as a big function hall for various conferences, seminars, or gatherings to fully cater to your needs. And of their host deal ever! For every 10 persons booked, 1 person is free. So what are you waiting for? Drop us a line, go and play! Experience the fun filled outdoor excitement that only Caliraya Resort Club has to offer. Promo dates from July to September 30 (). For inquiries and reservations, call (02)632-1370 locals 103, 401, 403, 808, 407, 080, 206, 261, 307, 311, 314 and 405 or visit www.philrecs-square.com.ph or directly book through e-mail at reservations.crc@sgroup.com.ph.

Microtel

Tokyo shopping tips and privileges with Visa 'Tokyo Style Guide 2010-2011'

VISA CARDHOLDERS visiting Japan can plan to improve their shopping trips with exclusive retail and dining merchant offers found in the Visa "Tokyo Style Guide 2010-2011."

The guide provides visitors with tips and offers for the love of fashion, art and culture in Tokyo and is available in Japanese, Chinese (both simplified and traditional) and English. The guide can be downloaded at http://www.visa.co.jp/tokyostyle/.

Participating merchants include cafes, shops, clubs, fashion brands and entertainment such as "Beams," "Tomorrowland," "Dalmatian Tigers" "The Mori Art Museum," "The National Art Center, Tokyo" and Tokyo's No. 1 club, Ruhaya NOAH.

James I. Allhusen, CEO, representative director for Visa Worldwide in Japan, said: "The aim of providing the Tokyo Style Guide in more languages is to ensure we make shopping information available to Visa cardholders who visit Japan and who speak other Asian languages."

The Visa Tokyo Style Guide 2010-2011 is also available via Yahoo Communities, iTunes Inc.'s "Tokyo Style Guide X (round trip)" iPhone application. Users can download the application, available only in English at this stage, they can access personalized menus, real-time GPS map navigation and information on exclusive offers without connecting to the Internet.

Visa cardholders who present the Tokyo Style Guide, either in print, PDF or iPhone form with their Visa card at participating stores will be awarded discounts of up to 30 percent off their purchases, or receive additional gifts and services. The PDF version can be printed or shown on a smartphone screen and can be downloaded from Visa's Japan Travel Offer Portal website (http://www.visa.co.jp/visajapan).

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Candle ritual at Sofitel

At 1AV noon to night, Sofitel Philippine Plaza performs a theatrical Candle Ritual in its iconic grand lobby and through the main areas of the hotel. The beautiful ceremony is held as a symbolic farewell and appreciation for the blessings of the day and a welcome to the magical splendor of the night.

At noontime, the hotel's lights go down, as the haunting tones of the Angelus fill the air. Ladies dressed in Filipiniana costume, through the lobby bearing candles and the Candle Master simultaneously lights the first wick. The 10 minute candle ritual starts at the lobby and goes through Lobar, down to Spiral and out to the Spiral outdoor deck.

Guests can experience the Candle Ritual Orchestral at the sophisticated French bistro at the lobby level, Lobar, where delightful French high tea and exquisite Sofitel Signature Cocktails made an Ele Royales, French Martinis, Mojitos Pear Hennessy and Pear Prosecco are served. Spiral is another vantage point to view the ceremony while enjoying a buffet that fulfills every culinary fantasy with its whopping 35A-dish offering.

The Candle Ritual is performed in Sofitel Luxury Hotels around the world and got its inspiration from the age-old tradition of lighting the streets of Paris. General Baron of Paris Gabriel Nicolas de la Reynie made it his mission in 1667 to clean and secure the streets of Paris. He implemented a public lighting system where more lit up the streets at night. Before the end of the 17th century, Paris was later called Ville Lumiere or City of Light because of this.

From the ancient practice, Sofitel has appropriated the practical ritual and turned it into a dramatic homage to the passage of day into night which can be witnessed by the hotel guests.

The Candle Ritual takes place at Sofitel Philippine Plaza on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. For inquiries and reservations, please call (632)551 5555. Or e-mail at room.reservations@sofitelmanila.com or fbreservations@sofitelmanila.com.

Relax and enjoy this July at City Garden

GREAT NEWS to all. The City Garden Hotel Makati starts the month right with fun and treat by offerings at affordable rates. A place for food memories, City Garden Hotel boasts of helping significantly located in the heart of Makati City.

Book your rooms at amazingly low rates for only P1,024+ per person, on a room sharing basis, friends, guests and family can enjoy the weekend with fancy food, and comfy rooms. Perk up your weekend with the use of their swimming pool.

Indulge in gastronomic food feasts that when your willing appetizer! Drink and be merry with their July Drink of the Month, the Garden Sunset. A simple of Pineapple and Lime juices with Mango Rum and Dash Liquor for a little something extra. That shot of drink that gives a long may comes with a free waffle may all for a total of P249+.

If food is what you crave, ready your appetites with City Garden Hotel's Chef's Specials of only P480+ as in Jumbo Seasonings. Name the palate with rich pumpkin soup, choice of Breaded Bangsilo or Fish for main course and yummy dessert of Banana Leyped A-filling and avenley of the salutes meal, this July is surely one that will bring joy to your stay at City Garden Hotel.

For more information and inquiries, spread your cares with suites for the Rates wines for a limited time only P900+/Suite. Amazing treats only at City Garden Hotel Makati, for avail of the Happy Hour at the Roadblock from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. All the action is in one place!

For inquiries and reservations, please visit the Hotel Reception or call 1+5220999 1111.

Fresh kitchen prince of Heritage Hotel Manila launches 'Gastronomic Galore' Marche-style food promo

FINE LINES little pleasures at the chic Marche-style "Gastronomic Galore" dining experience for lunch and dinner at the Riviera Café from July 12 to 31, from the Heritage Hotel's spunky young and witty new executive chef Alex Chong, also known as the hotel's fresh kitchen prince whose lively grail philosophy is bringing freshness to the table.

Sample chef Alex's audacious experimentations and inventive recreations in a Fusion of Eastern and Western fare made of the freshest natural ingredients, prime meats and finest selection of vegetables and sweet recipes in the season's latest menu of sumptuous delights at the Riviera Café.

In a nutshell, the real sucker and interactive dining experience that evokes the Marche vibe enables guests to converse with chefs on the recipes and cooking journeys as well as buy bottled gourmet items and breads on the side.

Chef Alex moves his roots to Malaysia and has 22 years of experience in the 5-star hotel industry of his home country, Singapore and China. Competitive, creative and energetic, he has won numerous awards for his culinary masterpieces. He was awarded the 2009 "Golden Whisk" Award by the Best of Executive Chefs Distinction in Shenzhen, China, selected by the Malaysian Tourism Board to represent the country in the 2008 Malaysian Carnival Promotion in Hanoi. During his stint in Singapore, he and his kitchen team garnered the 2002 Silver and Bronze award for Culinary Competition and Culinary Buffet category at the Food Hotel Singapore International Competition. He specializes in Western and Asian Fusion cuisine and well-versed in wine pairing.

More and more the Heritage Hotel's kitchen darling, chef Alex and get a few tips on how to miss one's good taste quotient. Go ahead and affordably eat your course to the immaculate good food and wine at the Riviera Café and discover Chef Alex's unwavering philosophy of refinement. Call 854-0888 or marcom@heritagehotelmanila.com for inquiries and reservations. The Heritage Hotel Manila is managed by the Millennium Hotels and Resorts.

American student gives the peso a makeover

From page D1

Committee of the Bangko Central ng Pilipinas (BSP), which includes historian Ambeth Ocampo, is set to introduce new generation banknotes with counterfeit proof features by December 2010.

Since his reworked-grabbing studies started spreading virally, Pinoy netizens have been emphatic in their praise.

"The colors are so refreshing! The weave pattern reminds me of the woven clothes of the Igorots."

"Amazing! I really hope the government approves your bills."

"Signing the BSP. This is what our money should look like!"

Some were less enthusiastic. "They look like coupons." "Umm, are they gift certificates?"

Here, Super talks to us, reviewing and creative process with Borgino.

We thought you were Filipino. Of all the currencies, why did you choose the peso?

It was a project at Parsons. Every student in class was asked to write down the country in which they had lived the longest. At first, randomly selected a piece of paper from the pool.

One of my classmates was a Filipino, headless to say, I picked her piece of paper.

How much effort did you put in this?

I put in a lot of time studying what was important to the Filipinos in terms of historical references and images of customs. After I settled on content, I hunted the best possible illustrations or photographs from online resources. I intended not to use the current banknotes as reference....I didn't want to be influenced by them in any way. I never saw an actual peso bill until the project was finished.

Our Bangko Sentral will release new banknotes by December. What kind of design advice would you give them?

It's very easy to represent a nation with a famous face or a well-known monument, and too many currencies rely solely on the object to relay the essence of a nation. Sometimes, however, an abstracted shape or a dynamic color pattern can carry more significance—in history, government, culture, language, and idiosyncrasy....Given the traditional style of banknote design, in making this risk, it can allow for a purely original and memorable design that can be much more powerful.

What inspired the eye-catching typography and colors?

I was largely impressed with the beauty of the Philippine landscape, and it, in turn, affected many of my decisions. The background patterns were inspired by the Chocolate Hills and the Banaue Rice Terraces, among others. In the same fashion, most of the colors are taken inwardly from those natural palettes, such as your ocean, sky's beautiful sunsets or underwater reefs. I wanted the banknotes to appear as if they could exist naturally in the environment.

"THE BACKGROUND patterns were inspired by the Chocolate Hills and the Banaue Rice Terraces, among others," says Borgino.

What do you consider well-designed currencies?

When I traveled to Australia, I fell in love with their currency straight out of Customs. It was designed with the user in mind. Each bill has its own easily recognizable colors and elements, which makes it easy to locate when placed in a wallet with other notes—as opposed to American notes, which makes it hard to distinguish one bill from the other. I'm also very fond of UK's 10-dollar banknote. It pushed the envelope for currency design everywhere by using only repeating patterns and colors to represent a nation.

Have you ever been to the Philippines?

I had intended to visit while on extended vacation through Australia, but I ended up not having enough time or money to make my way to mainland Asia. I do, however, plan to visit your country in the near future....and I'm sure that my banknote designs would change considerably as a result. It's impossible to obtain a true sense of a nation from only conversation and Internet research.

Intriguing 'Inception' is not for lazy viewers

Christopher Nolan's new movie demands your attention and will hold you spellbound in all the right places

By Rust S. De Vera

BECAUSE OF THE mind success of "Batman Begins" and "The Dark Knight," people tend to regard director Christopher Nolan's other projects to be something akin to movie babies—nurturing to its luminous blockbusters.

The truth is that Nolan probably considers those movies—the time-bending "Memento" from 2000 and the magnificently deceptive 2006 "The Prestige"—to be the ones up his daddy is okay. Followers of other side of Nolan will find much to feast on in "Inception," Nolan's mindfilm.

Edge features

Advanced technology now at hand allows individuals to enter other people's dreams to steal secrets and ideas. The very best at this process—called extraction—is Dom Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio), but after losing everything that matters to him, Cobb is offered a chance at redemption.

One job, and he gets his life back. But there's a hitch: instead of performing thoughts, Cobb must plant one. After Cobb recruits his team, everyone finds out it's much more dangerous than anybody thought.

"What's the most resilient parasite?" Cobb asks. "An idea. A single idea from the human mind can build skyscrapers. An idea can transform the world and rewrite all the rules."

On what appears to be his most step in appreciating as great directors, DiCaprio, fresh off Martin Scorsese's "Shutter Island," has grown into his edge features, bringing an almost weary intensity to his role as Cobb.

He grabs the viewers by the lapels as well as dangles them through the maze of this movie. Nolan has assembled a humongous cast who deliver similarly fearsome performances. Those writing Marion Cotillard, Tom Hardy, Ellen Page, Tom Hardy from "Star Trek: Nemesis," and several players from the Christopher Nolan repertory company—Michael Caine, Cillian Murphy and Tom Hardy.

Riveting

Most moving is the star making turn by Joseph Gordon-Levitt ("500 Days of Summer") as Cobb's slowly right hand man, Arthur. All grown up, Gordon-Levitt throws himself completely into the demanding action scenes as well as stands up to Cobb when he wants to. His serious shine are worth watching "Inception" for.

This is not a movie for the lazy. Running almost two and a half hours, "Inception" must logic requires that the viewer try to keep up with the constantly evolving plot. It demands your attention and will hold you spellbound in all the right places.

Based on an idea that Nolan has been percolating in his head for a decade now, "Inception" has layers of meaning, about layers of meaning. With its ambitious theme-action-drama format, "Inception" is just fun, just action and just psychological thriller. It is all pretty amazing.

In its explanation of what's real and what goes on behind it, "Inception" does its sister with the Wachowski brothers' "The Matrix" and Alex Proyas' "Dark City," but it also something else altogether.

The movie zooms from here to Morocco to Los Angeles, then engages in brutal world building. Nolan stages elaborate, jaw-dropping action scenes alongside quietly devastating conversations. The special effects are simply stunning, showing us things we have never seen before.

"You mustn't be afraid to dream a little bigger, darling," somebody says in the movie pitch to us moviegoers.

That is only appropriate for "Inception," the superlative and logical conclusion of Christopher Nolan's directorial journey, providing the quality of "The Prestige" on a fantasy-sized budget and zooming you in all the expected and unexpected places.

Starring: Dom "Inception" is now showing in select theaters.

2b LIFESTYLE

THE ALL-NEW CHEVY CRUZE
DRIVE CRUZE DP STARTS AT P88,000*
THE CHEVY THAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IS HERE. For more info, visit: www.chevrolet.ph
CHEVROLET

High school kids give unsolicited advice to P-Noy

He is an older brother to them, after all

Photos by Elizabeth Lalanga

HIS MOTHER, the late President Corazon Aquino, told Aquino to be put off by ill- advice that some uninformed. But the new President seems to be learning to live with it, and seems accessible by text, Facebook. Twitter. He would do well to pause and consider these 14 open letters from high school students—as young as 13, as old as 20—for many reasons: among them, they have no personal agenda; they are future voters who would like to make informed choices when it's their turn to elect public officials and help where they can in making the country strong; and their advice is candid, not motivated by any hovering ambition, except to be heard.

Perhaps, Mr. President can be known as that generation of kids as the older brother who listens.

I'm getting sick...

Dear President,

The health of the Filipino people is still bad. Please do something to help, like stop smoking, lower medication prices and find hospital supplies. Restrict smoking among minors and drinking, or at least make more awake their users. Really, I'm getting sick of all the smoke in the air I keep breathing in. Even though I'm used to the smoke, even if I know, sooner or later, it'll have a bad effect on me, go and reduce smoking, please. That is enough for me.

Sincerely,

Arnold Subia 4, de Guzman, 13, #277-C Capitan Jr. Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City

P.S. Build more consumer shops. I like cameras.

God will help you

Dear Pliny,

How are you? I hope you never seen of what you said at the inauguration. I want you to decrease and limit the prices of gas, medicines, food and other needs and essential benefits to our people. Please create more jobs for the people. Lower taxes, too. Try to stop the killings. Stop people who give and accept bribes. Also, stop people who create products that harm people badly. Be sure that what they create does not have a bad effect on people and the country.

I hope that God will help you and give you the power to do what is right.

Respectfully yours,
Gerry Guardino, 20
#67 Pitch #Pitch #part #pitch
103 West West Road
Mandaluyong City

Relocation site

Dear Mr. President,

First, I would like to say congratulations on winning the elections, despite your partners. May thanks, you being elected as vice president. I hope you and Vice President Binay will do a good job in strengthening democracy.

Second, have you noticed the country's ecosystem lately? It's slowly dying because of too much logging and pollution. I request that you secure our ecosys-

SAMSUNG
The New Samsung French Door Refrigerator
Wider space for greater convenience
Smart Thinking, Simple Living
smartbuys
FREE 22" LCD TV

DESIGNS LIGNA
SALE
JULY 16 – AUGUST 31

Knit picking

Get your dusky hippie florals woven into oversized cozy knits – bohemian grunge takes on the new season

Dream weaver

Fancy cable-knit cardigans over a floaty peasant frock

Black floral chiffon off-shoulder jumpsuit, Forever 21; gray cable-knit cardigan, Topshop; black peasant lace crossbody skin bag, Coco & Tree; black socks, stylist's own; black and white peasant loafers, Solsa

Extra! Extra!

Shoulder bags and leggings complement the free-spirited vibe

Multicolored floral chiffon top, Dorothy Perkins; camel knit vest, and gray denim biker jacket, both from Bayo; light wash denim shorts, TNF at Zara; black leather necklace on silver chain, Forever 21; brown leatherette shoulder bag, Promod; black socks, stylist's own; black ankle leather zip loafers, Forever 21

Piling it high

Pile on textures and unexpected color pairings

Yellow floral lace top, and peach sleeveless pleated tiered dress, both from Topshop; multicolored bracelet, Rotot; brown leatherette shoulder bag, Promod; gray socks, stylist's own; gray faux canvas loafers, TNF at Zara

Color me mine

Choose a color scheme to combine prints easily

Maroon floral-tiered dress, and multicolored striped cardigan, both from Forever 21; black studded belt, Topshop; raccoon, and gray scarf, stylist's own; peach canvas lace-up boots, Solsa

Top coat

A slouchy topper is the key piece to complete the look

Beige satin top, and multicolored floral chiffon dress, both from Forever 21; gray satin clutch, almond earrings, TNF at Zara; gold mesh bracelet, Kahne

High school kids give unsolicited advice to P-Noy

10 more pages to go

tem. Those who eat a ton must replace it or plant another. Please limit the disposal of trash by asking people to recycle more rather than throwing away.

Third, I live in an area where squatters' houses are being demolished to expand the road. The irony is they blame us for the destruction of their homes. May I suggest you give them a relocation site so that they can live in peace?

Finally, we have come to the end of our conversation. Thank you for putting aside time to read my letter. I trust you will be able to truly bring back democracy to our country.

Frances Gargantiel R., 13
II Ace Jo
Capitol Hills, Quezon City

You always drink Coke

Dear President Noynoy,

Just a few days ago, you were an average person. Now you are the President, an icon of change. You are the one who sets guidelines for our country's better name.

I am amazed by what you said in your inaugural speech. You gave the impression that you want to be connected to the citizens of our country.

The only thing I'm hoping that you'd change is the fact that you always drink Coke, not water. I hope that you minimize that habit of yours. Maybe instead of Coke, you can just take water.

I think that can be a great start, a change for yourself. After that, start working on your working problem. Again, congratulations on a wonderful win.

Amariel Bianca Gamboa, 16
7 Ares St.
Bel-Air Village, Makati City

Where our money will go

Dear Mr. President,

I want say I am very proud that you are the President. Congratulations! Your mother brought democracy back to our country. Now is your chance to speak and act in behalf of democracy. Our country has gone under oppression for years. Our people have been suffering. Now that there's you as President, I know there will be change. Think wisely about where our money will go: homes for the homeless, food for the malnourished, medicine for the sick.

Health is also a main concern. You should keep your lungs healthy to be able to lead the country. Strained relationships are some of your least concerns, perhaps. Good luck!

Sincerely,
Jacady Marsha Escalona, 16
Community of Learners
#1 Cecilia St.
Beverly Hills 6, Quezon City

Read more letters to P-Noy on page 3

Totebags with a soundtrack

It is more than just a cute bag with a free soundtrack!

By Sunshine Reyes
Contributor

"IN THERE is[sic] drawers small dressage bins never let me down. I bought an electronic sewing machine last Sunday," Kathy Ermes wrote in her online journal one year ago. "I wanna sew days dreaming of cute totebags to make, practicing sewing, and learning all day to Loony Dese."

Now a year has passed and she's sewn more than five hundred totebags all by herself, and has consigned several pieces with the equally charming Helena Home & Lifestyle store.

Kathy survives sleepless days and nights in her bedroom, armed with Sweden (her sewing machine) and accompanied by her favorite music, Lo-o-ride her totes.

Given Kathy's unrelenting love for music, it's not surprising that the WallflowerParty Reversible Totebags come with free mini CDs and pins. As her Facebook profile declares, "Like good sandwiches that are damn hard to find, you never pass up on a chance like WallflowerParty." The bags are totally cute, convenient, and one-of-a-kind!

What inspired you to put up WallflowerParty Reversible Totebags?

"One time I brought a bunch of my favorite T-shirts to our neighborhood seamstress to have it altered but she ruined the set, it was irreparable, which got me depressed! Seeing that my shirts were all in a pile, I was also sewing mini bibs at a mall. I immediately decided to buy it so I could repair them myself, which ended up as totebags. I was also addicted to hand-me-down totebags which were expensive so I thought I'd make my own. The idea of selling them online came to mind when I saw dear everyone was selling their T-T's, T-shirts and jewelry on the web."

How did you come up with the idea of including mini CDs and pins with your totebags? Will there always be freebies?

"I love cooking and CDs as a hobby, so I thought I'd share my only my personal style, but also my taste in music. It makes my totebags extra unique and special, because not only do I make small quantity of bags per design...it's a bag with a musical touch! I give away pins just because they're cute and it's the easiest thing that I can improve. It also serves as my logo. There will always be freebies. I'll think of something else in the future!"

What are the challenges of doing this all by yourself?

"I really need to make time for it. I go to Sulit Bukan to buy fabrics and the only time that I have to sew them is after work or all-nighter weekends. So it entails a lot of effort from me. And I don't really design big bulk orders."

How do you manage your time, considering that you have a day job, and you have gigs to attend to?

"I don't think I'm good in managing my time, to just a matter of choosing what makes me happy over. If it means lack of sleep and less free time my bags are my favorite hands! over enough time for sleeping and eats! Plus, I think if you like what you do, no matter what, you will make time for it. Nothing beats the giddiness I feel when I finish making a big set where someone buys it as well. They're like my works of art, once I can't guess. Besides, sewing relaxes me."

Advice for folks who want to go D.I.Y.?

"Like what you do not just because it's the 'IN' thing nowadays. Be passionate and respect to get (pleasantly) raved."

WallflowerParty Reversible Totebags are available online, http://facebook.com/wallflowerparty, and at Helena Stores in Cubao X and LRI Design Plaza in Makati City. For orders, send Kathy a message via mail.fan@gmail.com.

Send us your D.I.Y. at 2ba3@philstar.net or 2b@mail.com and get a chance to be featured in our section!

The council of cool

Cool is something everybody understands—attractive and interesting with future growth potential

By Kara Vhal Guingain
Student correspondent, Asian-eh Manila University

IT MAY seem that in determining fashion hits and misses each season, the haute couture runway shows, international fashion magazines, and even the celebrities who carry the next "it" thing have a say. In actuality, there is only one institution, who decides on what's fashionable and what's not.

This is what the students of The One School and School of Fashion and the Arts (SOFA) discovered, when Dr. Carl Rohde, an internationally known trend watcher, cultural sociologist, and professor at Rotterdam University in Netherlands visited Manila for a trend watching lecture.

"Cool is something everybody understands," Rohde said as he explained the concept behind the International City Cool Rate. This project has over 6,000 participants from all over the world, who are tasked to find something "cool."

Cool from all over the world

In definition, cool is something "attractive and interesting with future growth potential." The participants, known as "cool hunters," submit photos of their finds along with a caption explaining why they think a particular trend is cool.

There are seven categories from which the hunters can choose to submit pictures: Cool Achievements, Cool Web, Help Me Do-nesia, Experience Economy, Low The City, Cool Masculinity, and Cool Femininity.

Examples of entries from Israel to South Africa to as far as Sao Paulo were shown in the lecture. The audience were enthralled by pictures of advance technology from other countries, while a few eyebrows were raised when an ex-"it" Hollywood celebrity was still included in the Cool Femininity category.

The Cool City Hunt giving participants have complete freedom to share what is fascinating for them, regardless of how "last season" it might be. This explains why an ex-"it" Hollywood celebrity was still part of the Cool list.

The goal of the project is to make people view the world from a different perspective, through the prism of current and past trends. The student people to discover new things that will inspire them.

Glocally cool

For SofA student Gaia Abrenilla, the project was interesting. "We have to find uncommon ideas and make them cool," she said. The importance of knowing what is trendy is beneficial in fashion design majors such as Abrenilla because "we need to see future styles and make them customize in the pieces we come up with."

The Cool City exercise from other countries can be a little intimidating, since they are more developed than ours, but Petrie Bun, director of Petit's University of Applied Sciences, who was with Rohde during his Manila visit, said this should not be the case.

"There may be some cultural differences for developing countries like yours have a lot of things happening, too," he explained. He stressed that new trends arise when the people are optimistic, organized, and possess an enterprising spirit.

"It is important, therefore, that we continue to study emerging trends because we need people to develop concepts for a broader view of what's likely to happen in the future," he said.

"Trend spotting still needs to grow," said Rohde, and with the help of the cool hunters who give fresh takes on things that we used to take no notice of before, it's time for more of us to keep an open mind and a discerning eye and begin to see the world a little differently.

A world of wonders discovered by kids and parents at the Promil Pre-School i-Shine Talent Camp

Four different malls overflowed with energy as Promil Pre-School entertained around 2,500 children from ages 4 to 7 years old at the i-Shine Talent Camp. The series of events aimed to let kids explore their talents as their moms lent their guidance and support.

As proud partners of mothers in helping kids discover their talents, Promil Pre-School allowed youngsters to enjoy the activities they like best as i-Shine's Observe, Play and Encourage books. Apart from this, child ambassadors and experts willingly guided supportive moms about discovering the infinite possibilities in their children and on how to hone their child's talents.

"Aside from constantly finding avenues for kids to learn more, moms should also provide them with proper nutrition for their developing brain and body," advises guest educator Dr Liz Hoang.

Promil Pre-School, a powdered milk drink for children, continuously partners with and supports all parents in developing their child's capabilities. It contains Nutrimentals—a unique combination of essential nutrients to help optimize a child's full potential. Watch out for other engaging Promil Pre-School activities throughout the year as you observe, play and encourage your child's full potential.

"The initial growing-up years of a child is crucial to learning. Parents should take advantage of this and provide a way to let their kids learn and express their talents. Ask your children what they want, let them try out different things: enroll them in certain activities or simply be creative with available materials at home."

Dr Liz Hoang, pediatrician and educator

"Never, never stop your child from learning. There are a lot of new outlets nowadays, new ways in which kids can learn. And never run out of good things to say. Words like 'Go for it. It is never a waste of time.' can be truly encouraging for a child – kind words like these can go a long way."

Kara Vanjari Guba
TV actor host and an enthusiast

Kara Vanjari Guba, Dr. Liz Hoang and TV host Regine Tolentino share practical tips to equip moms on how to discover and nurture their child's talents.

Kara Vanjari Guba, TV show host and an enthusiast, taught kids to be creative with readily available materials at home by turning them into their own artistic masterpieces.

Moms and child ambassador Kaey Dee Tanedo bump on the Encourage course.

ABC Ref No. W0007021638

The rewards of living at

SoleMare
PARKSUITES

18-STOREY RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM AT MACAPAGAL AVENUE

Take in the sights or be part of the scene. At SoleMare, you're a few steps from one of the world's best shopping destinations, the SM Mall of Asia. You're also next door to the PAGCOR Casino Entertainment Center, the country's most exciting entertainment development.

Living here is a breeze, you have all the deluxe amenities, easy access to Manila's major thoroughfares, and a multitude of interesting destinations within an emerging business and shopping hub. Best of all, units are delivered:

Fully Fitted • Fully Furnished • Primed for Occupancy

The SoleMare Parksuites. More than just a home, it's a destination.

Anchored by 100% commitment

Anchor Land Holdings Inc.

888-9999 / 0922-875-5553

www.solemareparksuites.com

Super LIFESTYLE

Your Super guide to backpacking around the Philippines (Part 2)

Cebu Pacific's Backpacker Challenge brought Super to four destinations in five days in the quest to find out how far a traveler can go with just P12, 000. Pretty far, we found out. But don't just read, see for yourself

More adventures in backpacking

Last week, we explored Cebu and Cagayan de Oro. This week, the craziness continues in Davao and Iloilo

By Pami Pantoja
Photos by JM Lopez

WE HAD just left Cagayan de Oro and our backpacking adventure was far from over. Still armed with our Cebu Pacific airline tickets, maps, Canon cameras, what was left of our P34,000 and sheer determination, we were headed to our next destination—Davao.

DAVAO

We landed in Davao on a cold, wet morning. Day three of our five-day Cebu Pacific backpacking challenge might as well be starting—but taking those cities in one day isn't easy. We left Cebu at 5:30 in the morning, spent the day doing all kinds of things in Cagayan de Oro and arrived in Davao at night, dead tired. And that's Team SUPER's excuse for doing nothing on its first night in the city of durian.

Photographer JM Lopez and I just ate, had food and then collapsed in bed and fell asleep immediately even though I strongly suspected there was a ghost in our room.

The next day, we woke up fresh and energized, determined to make up for our lazy evening. We were sure our room-partner (the bloggers and journalists who made up Team Siasat, Team Colombia, Team High Sierra and Team Eagle Creek) had started exploring the city the previous night while we were snoring away.

"Where can we get good breakfast?" I texted my friend Jesse and he told us to go to D' Breakfast Club, which was near Ateneo de Davao.

Lured by the promise of bacon, we hopped onto a jeep and JM asked the driver's assistant to tell us if we had reached our stop. Sure, he said, and then he got busy trying to get more passengers.

YOUR SUPER GUIDE P4

GARFIELD

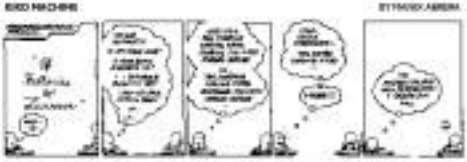
PUGAD BAABY

LOVEHOOTS

DIVINE COMEDY

TULDOR

BIRD MACHINE



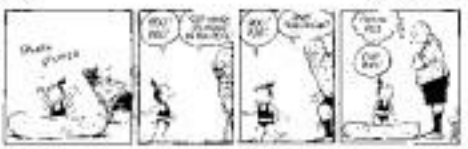
A. UPPH

DICK TRACY

JAMES BOND

BABY BLUES

BEN



MARMADUKE LAUDON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Spiritual ideas or a deeper belief about something might come to you today. A vacation could be for some of you. It could be very meaningful.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A great situation might open you to change. Use caution in dealing with others. You may have to resolve jealousy or others that may try to approach something.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Something that others may say or do could bring out your inner self-image difficult today. Speak to the decision. New opportunities to gain respect are evident.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Today, something might happen to really change your views about religion, politics, philosophy or a profit-oriented person. It's like a huge revelation.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Others whom will not completely new opportunities to view even for something that is totally related or shared by people. This could be somebody fortunate for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) A new point of view might make you realize a personal or a family situation over life. Remember this period it takes to your world, and it is a transition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) New ways to approach your job or perhaps a new job, can really give you a lift today. People who are connected to you. Make the most of it!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Romance, love affairs, new loves, parties, sports and fun times are a great source of joy for you. News about children or people you take care of can be a big source of joy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is an excellent day for real estate. You might see how to solve a corporation problem, new house something down or solve no doubt. Someone can do something for both.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You are hopeful and optimistic about something today. You can feel pulling away the best of the time that fall you to a deeper truth.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Treat your correspondence today! You might receive news to sort money, important mail, distant friends or feel ways to make money on the side. It looks good!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is a fortunate day for you. Something that you realized that you do have a good fortune. Sometimes you can put being to an external meaning and you can also something. But not today.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	1	9	5	2	4	6	3	8
8	6	3	7	9	1	4	5	2
5	4	2	8	6	3	7	9	1
1	8	6	4	3	9	5	2	7
3	9	4	2	5	7	8	1	6
2	7	5	1	8	6	3	4	9
6	5	8	9	4	2	1	7	3
4	3	7	6	1	5	9	8	2
9	2	1	3	7	8	2	6	4

Concepts Sudoku

			7		4			
8								2
	3			5			7	
1			8		3			5
		8		2		4		
3			6		9			1
	7			3			6	
2								9
			2		6			

Moderate Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

He pushes indie

Jeff Cruz is breaking new bands you should be excited about

By Christian Bryll Bautista
Contributor

THERE'S MORE to a rock show than the ticket you bought and the band that decided to throw up two hours after the scheduled start of the show. Contracts need to be negotiated, rock stars have to be prodded and equipment must be deemed worthy of use by generators even before a single note is played.

This little dot of a country has been atrocious to unsuspecting bands that anyone under 30 would appreciate. For every Nine Inch Nails or Coheed and Cambria concert, there are about 50 featuring artists over the hill band that was quite famous during the '80s. That is, until Jeff Cruz and Kindaichi-meets-along Cruz, who's experience runs under the Kindaichi brand, has given indie music fans reason to stay put rather than head over to Singapore or Hong Kong to watch a rock show (yes, people actually do that). Aside from staging gigs that feature a long list of bands from neighboring Asian countries, Cruz has had a hand in bringing over acts such as Rings of Convenience, Plus Minus and Perez.

The Kindaichi operation started when a friend hooked Cruz up with a Japanese band called Mums. The group, a female electro-pop duo with violins and electronic samples for instruments, was willing to pay their own way to play gigs in the Philippines. Cruz booked the band for gigs in Baguio, Club Untold and the now-closed Magnet High Street, thereby marking the start of a habit.

From there, Kindaichi progressed to staging Afest, an annual music festival that gathers bands from all over Asia, including local ones. So far, there have been two editions of Afest. The venue is sort of a mini-Manila tour that makes the rounds of the scene's indie. The bands that have played the show include I Am David Ignatius (singapore), Everybody's Jones, Senor Chidoras, Urbas The Jazz Unquest and David Bowie Knivers (Hong Kong). The names are not known in the neck of the woods; perhaps even casual gig goers are limited to the Electrico and Pop History of the region. But Afest shows are always well attended; one part due to curiosity and another due to Cruz's knack for booking enthralling bands.

WITH Chris Claurbek Ikes of Kings of Convenience

His reason for organizing Afest?

WITH Emond Ilyo of Kings of Convenience

"I watched everyone more than once already so I thought I'd bring in more bands. I just thought we needed more bands," he said.

Cruz, who sings and plays guitar in a quirky pop group called The Dodgers, has a simple requirement for the bands that he brings over. "I just have to like them," he said. Though he cares the importance of market research and feeling the pulse of the concert-going public, he couldn't completely hide his intentions. "It's important that you seem to move them [the bands]," he said.

"The bands that I get, we have the same attitude. I just sort of have this sense for finding those bands who have the same sense as I do.

Cruz's eyes light up when he talks about the musicians he's met. When asked which band he himself after the most, he says: "The guys from Kings of Convenience asked me the same question. I told them, 'You guys.'"

And to think the Kings of Convenience concert almost didn't happen. Aside from granting odd requests such as singer Erlend Oye's insistence on playing tennis (which could be worse, considering such star demands range from anywhere between a jar full of brown M&Ms to flying an obstructed jeep), the concert seemed like a financial chore. "I thought I was going to lose 50,000,000," he said.

During the start of negotiations, Cruz gave up because he couldn't afford the band's fee. It was through the insistence of Kings of Convenience that the gig took place. "From bringing these small Asian bands in Kings of Convenience, it was a big step," Cruz said.

Cruz says that he's always dreamed of becoming a professional musician. He says that he stumbled upon being a concert promoter, a fact that hasn't prevented him from having lofty goals. "[My goal], it's to be famous," he said. "I want to be the main indie promoter in the Philippines. And make money off of it, to be honest."

He pushes on to Chris Kaine with every gig. Any check out the prospects, Hanselmine Pain for August, Tegan and Sara in November and Sean and Belle and Sebastian next year. Yes, you read that right.

National Book Store
Calculator Madness!
UP TO 25% OFF
deli
OLYMPIA
SHARP
IN THE BOX
Your Must-have Office Solutions!
Acura Laminator
A4 size: 125-250 Microns
Handy Fix Multipurpose Adhesive & Sealant
Photoplus Glossy Photo Paper
Vernal Post Binder Refill
Seagull Clearbook Ring Type
A4 size: 40 sheet
Seagull Ring Binder D-Ring PVC Cover
available in A4 & F4
assorted colors
Seagull Lever Arch File
available in A4 & legal sizes
available in assorted colors
Seagull Magazine Rack with Stand

More adventures in backpacking

From page F1

DAVAO

inside the jeep. It was like the dude was trying to break a world record for the most number of passengers crammed inside one jeep.

Mine, that is a pretty long ride, I thought. I looked over the passenger seat. SM. I whipped out the map. When others relax, wait a minute.

"Inaano na ayos tayo," I whispered to Ali. She asked the driver's assistant where Ateneo was and he sheepishly admitted that he had forgotten about us.

We got off that jeep and managed to find our way to D' Breakfast Club where we devoured our frustrations in bacon and chicken skin. D' Breakfast Club served great breakfast meals at great prices—our bacon, garlic rice and fried egg just cost P90 and the chicken skin was just P55.

After breakfast, we took a "trisikad" and a jeep to Bonar Suites. Ponce Suites is one of our two favorite Davao discoveries. When we found out about Ponce Suites' low room rates, we wanted to kick ourselves. We should have booked a room there and not in our ghost-friendly hotel.

Amazing gallery

Ponce Suites is not just a hotel, it's an amazing gallery that local artist Bobbie Millan has filled with fantastic works of art—from giant sculptures and wonderful paintings to unique and timeless. It's overwhelming. You'd want to stay there for hours, getting lost in Bobbie's creations.

Bobbie was teary when we visited but we never had to meet his wife, Jessalyn and artist Mont Chua, who showed us around the place.

After we cleaned our coffee at Bobbie Bistro, we stepped outside Ponce Suites, admired the giant sculptures by the entrance and walked to the nearby Bobbie Gallery to see more of Bobbie's work.

On our way to the gallery, I saw a sign outside a gate "Durian for Grams P20 per tray."

I have never tasted durian in my life, the smell just repels me. But now in Davao and the songs with durian was unavoidable so I thought I might as well go for it in ice cream form.

A sweet-looking woman in a black daster opened the gate for us. She welcomed us warmly. "Mga bisita! Kasi inang? Kung gusto kayo durian."

Uh oh, I thought.

All kinds of durian

Her name is Josie Carnago and she spends her days out just making durian ice cream but all kinds of treats—durian yema, durian chocolate kisses and more.

We stepped into her garage and she led us to several flavors. She handed Ali a cup of ice cream and was about to hand me my own when I said, "Ate! no long pa kami." That's what happens when you're traveling on a budget—you share ice cream.

Ali, who is no stranger to durian, ate it hesitantly and passed the cup on to me. I hesitantly shoved a big chunk of ice cream into my mouth. The flavor of durian exploded on my tongue. It was more for strange, creamy and cold and, ultimately, good.

She handed us durian chocolate kisses which we popped into our mouths. Soon, I was shopping as a full-sized durian yema lies. Yes, I was pissed myself by liking the taste of durian.

Josie's products have a lot of fans even in Manila. They order by calling and she ships it to them.

We took a jeep to SMX. When/ where we took a boat to Paradise Island Beach Resort in Samal Island. The boat ride costs just P15 per person.

Paradise

In less than 15 minutes, we found ourselves on the beach. We paid the entrance fee (P120 per person) and grabbed a spot.

Ali spotted a bunch of Boracay about to swim-dive and decided to join them. Her boat-long underwater adventure cost P1,000, including equipment rental. As Ali tried to find Nemo, I got busy downing a bottle of San Miguel Beer, eating calamares and fries and studying an adorable little boy who was trying to build a sand castle.

After a quick swim, we headed back to the city. We went to Magsaysay Park where we watched skateboarding teenagers and lovey-dovey couples. We then walked to Bluggoroy Fruit Stand where we bought mangosteen and one really sweet pomelo, which I enjoyed eating right at the fruit stand.

We checked out Chinatown and soon, it was time for dinner.

Pat's Kinilaw from Davao recommended the place. "Mega-mesmo siya," said Nes.

The server at Sushi Sa Ponce was crazy. People crowded around a table covered with piles of cardboard boat with plastic pools, sushi, beer and, gimmick fill and each grabbed a fistful of tuna sticks. They even had Hi-chark.

We spotted a bowl of brown stuff beside their guest pot of rice. "Ate, ano yun?" fill asked. We had no idea we were about to find our second best Davao discovery.

"Inuyong pusit."

Pusit and peppers

Apparently, they make it using generous amounts of vinegar. They put a spoonful of the stuff on top of your rice, which you will then enjoy with your Ponce grilled meat. An order of rice with pusit just costs P9.

One bite was all I needed to understand why there was a big crowd at Sushi sa Ponce. The pusit was good, as good. And here's the thing—you cannot order more pusit. It is only served with rice. If you want more pusit, you have to eat more rice. And that is how I ended up tasting two cups of rice at dinner. I am not ashamed.

We paid our bill on the way out and, still high on pusit, I begged the man behind the counter to open a branch in Manila.

Our total bill for that scrumptious dinner? P72. Yes, P72.

We walked to the nearby Ilustre Boulevard Home Café for an entirely different dining experience. The place is known for giving diners a challenge. How many chili peppers can you eat in your burger? The current record is 286. They actually have a board that keeps track of the top three diners who ate the most number of peppers.

And because we are diners, we ordered a normal cheeseburger—sans pepper-free and only P85. And because gluttony is a sin, we just shared one burger.

All the eating left us exhausted so we retreated to our hotel for a dance nap. The plan was to wake up and check out Davao's thriving nightlife. But we were headed out for a long drive. By the time we woke up, it was time to pack. We were headed to our last destination—Iloilo.

Total money spent in Davao: P8,972.40

CLIP AND KEEP

Where to go, what to do, what to eat, where to sleep in Davao and Iloilo

DAVAO

FLY

SLEEP

EAT

Do

ILOILO

In Davao, we mastered the public transport system, expressing amazement at how easy it was to maneuver there but in Iloilo, we had a different battle plan.

We were told that there were a lot of places to see there but they weren't exactly near one another so we decided to rent a car. We had saved quite a bit of money from Davao and Cagayan de Oro so we could afford the splurge. We were going to pay P2,000 for 16 hours and we were in hell were determined to make the most out of it.

We got into the car and started walking to Plaza Libertad. Ali snatched the map in front of me. "Kuya, nakikita na ng 'yung mga nasa larawan? Dun tatlong malls lahat 'yun."

I'm surprised he didn't kick us out of the car then and there. But they weren't fazed. He was cool as the challenge. In fact, he seemed even a little excited. We visited Santa Barbara Church and gaped at the huge flying wooden birds. We walked around the plaza in front of the church, saw the Iloilo Ring to check out local pictures of the Dinagyang movement.

Bibingka and bacchoy

Then we stopped by Biscuits House, the Lodovica House, Santa Church and Jaro Cathedral, home of the miraculous statue of Virgin Mary which is said to have been canonically crowned by Pope John Paul II in the '80s.

We stopped for Batuan Bibingka in Lopez Jaena. We only had to pay P10 for a bag of small cakes. They were hot and really, really good. We've never tasted bibingka this good.

We stopped by Molly Candies, the place where we tried but failed to get inside the Magdalena Jalandoni Museum.

It was like a race on fast forward. We took a break and ate Tita Lu Pan Bacchoy à la Iloilo of Ilonx Super Bacchoy just exactly.

Pro tip: whenever you say salt-na-salt in Iloilo and they don't laughing. From Ted's we went to Roberto's to grab a stick of their P50 meatballs. I liked Roberto—they reminded me of homemade Bolognese meatballs.

We visited San Jose, Jaro San Isidro and Manila Limay and looked at the Arroyo mansion.

Then, we went to Molo Church, flocked out the parish at Molo Plaza, visited Pancakes de Molo, Mamon Bakeshop and La Paz Church.

We stopped by Panaderia de Molo, a bakery which is a big part of Iloilo history. We took a coffee break at Madge Coffee inside La Paz Market. Madge Coffee has been around for ages and ages. They serve good coffee, prepared much like teh tarik. And here's the cool part—if you want your coffee to go, they serve it in a can of evaporated milk, which has been emptied and cleaned.

Buy the driver did such a great job that we had been driving around for less than five hours and we had already run out of places to visit. We seemed to go to villages but the tourist office told us about it's outside the city proper, we wouldn't need to shell out another P500.

"No way!" we said.

Vibrant mood

So we changed our plans...we decided to go to Guimaras instead. We took a jeepney boat to the island (P15 per person) and hired a tricycle to take us around. It was a bit steep—P400 for three stops and to bring us back to the dock...but we were running out of time so we agreed.

We stopped by a mango research facility, a Trappist Monastery and went to Alubihod Beach. Going around Guimaras meant we rode the tricycle for over an hour in total. By the time we got off, our butt had pain and numbness and my whole body still felt like it was on vibrate mode.

We took the pump boat back to Iloilo and went to Tanay's for dinner. There's an inspiring mantra over by Iloilo's fancy, they told us how Tanay started serving seafood in a small boat and how he has stayed humble in his business but grown over the years. At Tanay's we ate scallops, chicharon labahita, manager's bagoong and tomboi bangus.

After dinner, we checked out Smallville, Iloilo's nightlife hotspot, and were impressed.

We then returned to Urban Inn, where we had booked a room, and said our goodbyes to Jhay who will never stop chasing after us for beautiful city. He gave us tips for the next day.

The next morning, we set out to look for Breakfast, a place that serves giant burgers. The place was packed but we managed to get a table. We ordered the giant cheeseburger (big enough for three or maybe even four people to share), the pancakes with caramelized banana (big and loud was Jollibee were size giants). At the end of our meal, we still had a lot of burger left. It was that big.

Bago-bago

It took us three peepees rides to get to Ashtown Steak House. The entrance fee was P150 and consumable. We paid an extra P75 each to be able to swim in the pool. The water was cool and offered respite from the heat.

We headed back to the city by jeepney one more time.

Later that day, on our way to the airport, we expressed our disappointment about not having enough time to buy some Batuan bibingka to bring home to Manila. The cab driver arranged so that we can buy some bibingka at a stall on the side of the road so we could buy bye-bye, another local treat which I can best describe as steamed rolmops that pandesal.

We boarded the plane from otherwise-expected-to-be-the-other-name. It had been a fun and crazy five days and the adventure still wasn't over. We still needed to find our rides from the challenge.

Total money spent in Iloilo: P6,482

MANILA

We landed in Manila and were straight to Manila Marriott Hotel for dinner and the awarding ceremonies.

Bloggers Dave Gallogos and Jomel Uy bagged the top prize—the trip to Kuala Lumpur for four. They totally deserve it—those guys hardly slept those five days and they were constantly on the go. Canon gave away special prizes for the best Bridal and print and shoot pictures and Cebu Pacific rolled out new destinations in the country and we already know where we're going—to Davao.

Until next time, get ready for another adventure.

ILOILO

Fly

Sleep

Eat

Do

Bending it with Beckham

We interview the soccer icon and realize he's a nice guy

By Adrian Dy

EVERY SPORT has players who transcend boundaries. These icons can be considered not only as ambassadors of their sport, but also avatars—symbolic of success, determination, and the will to triumph.

In one of I had stated tennis to David Cop lovers, and even if I associate "football" only with Iron Bradd, I found myself at the Citibank Tower last July 14 to get the chance to interview David Beckham. Let's face it, how often does one get this chance?

Since his early '90s debut with Manchester United, where he fulfilled his childhood dream, Beckham has been the symbol of British soccer.

He became even more of a pop icon when he married Spice Girl Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams in 1999. Then he moved to the US to play for the MLS club the Los Angeles Galaxy in 2007, setting off Beckham mania there, and becoming part of the Hollywood elite, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Tom Cruise and Jay Leno.

Talking point for the interview was Palms Spa+it, which, earlier this year, signed up Beckham to be its Global Spa+it Ambassador.

In "The World Interviews: David Beckham Live," Yahoo! Hub Philippines staffer Jo-anally Antolin, who moderated, I'll sometime to ask the master superstar guideline questions, all at the same time.

I normally thought I would be one of many sports writers covering the event, so I was surprised to hear that it was just I and a Yahoo Philippines representative. And oh, yes, our country would be one of the few to ask Beckham two questions.

The interview was done using Cisco Telepresence Technology, which is, to put it simply, a very, very hi-tech video conference call. But if your impression is choppy grainy and nothing like talking to in second person sitting in front of you, this was the opposite of all that.

The display spanned three wide panels that allowed us to feel like we were in the UK studio where Beckham would be taking questions before a small audience. There was hardly any lag, glitches or distortion, as both ends and media.

When I asked a Cisco representative what bandwidth they were using, he smiled and answered: "T3 women, too." Yeah.

The first few minutes before an interview are always nerve-wracking, especially when you're faced with a foreign celebrity this have no idea how he or she would respond. If one should expect short, clipped, prepared answers, if various questions are out of bounds, and however futile, you put him or her off enough to cause a walkout.

Once the interview began though, it was clear that those fears were unnecessary, named in Beckham's case.

It's almost impossible not to like him. Yes, the girls inevitably fawn over him, and scores fans, at the very least, tip their hats off to him, but after 90 minutes of chat, you cannot help but come away with the impression that Beckham is a really nice guy.

Beckham spoke like a guy whose feet were solidly on the ground, despite having piled oodles of money to do what he's wanted to do since he was a kid.

On kids and Victoria

He obviously loves his children, and throughout the interview, went out of his way to talk about them, like any proud parent.

THE PHILIPPINE contingent greets Beckham, "Mabuhay!"

THE WORLD interviewed David Beckham last July 14, and Super was there.

He also gave the girls hanging on to his every word when he described how he met his wife Victoria, and how he made her fall in love with him—He had been a Spice Girls video, and had said out loud: "See the girl in the dark short dress I'm going to marry her."

The interviewers also learned that Beckham was crazy about—he loves dressing someone and builds Lego models.

Beckham, of course, talked plenty of soccer, and with World Cup having just concluded, there were questions about players and encounters that stood out, as well as some good-natured teasing from the Spanish fans. He took it in stride, complimenting Diego Forlan, Lionel Messi and Iker Casillas, and calling Zidane, "the best player in the world."

The star was also not afraid to tackle tough questions, such as whether the Filipino players needed a senior level (I felt the benefit (while playing in Spain)...but to England...it's a big thing to have games on during days as well [so] he did...did to change"), if the young English team would be stifled once play resumed ("I hope not, they're young players) but you have to learn from the bad times and not from the hits"), and if replay or some other sort of technology ought to be used by FIFA to help the refs ("I have I'd be asked this?" he said with a laugh. "It has to be looked into, Sepp Blatter [FIFA president] is a respected man but the goal was clearly the call [a] mistake...It will definitely be looked into.").

He also dropped hints about his future, saying that he's not looking into being a manager, that he'd like to have a role in the Olympics, and even the 2014 World Cup, and no, he would not be a judge on the "Filipino" jun "Asian-Got-Talent" like show).

In the end, this seemed like a man who clearly loves what he's doing, a football lifer ("Football has given me so much so I'll [not] just walk away!"), and one who clearly loves his fans.

And he deserves his almost god-like status in the sport. Beckham showed that he was just like one of us, an ordinary bloke, a fan of the sport (and of the LA Lakers), and ultimately, someone you could have an egocentrics time with as a local pals. And if all goes well, he'll be heading it for many more years to come.

Bond Girl goes back to her roots

Half-Filipina actress Rachel Grant on her Hollywood career and inspiring, new local advocacy

By James Galvelbo

ENGLAND'S QUEEN Mother has local relative, many be proud.

You may recognize her as a Bond Girl from "Die Another Day." Those days, half-Filipina and part-English, Scottish, French, and Canadian actress Rachel Grant is caught up with even more promising Hollywood ventures, leading duties for the new series of "Ripley's Believe It Or Not!" as well as filming the last action feature film "Red Princess Blues," where she plays the lead role.

What many may not know is Grant has recently been tapped—or more like, the humbly volunteered...to be the global ambassador of visionary local brand Human Nature (See sidebar).

In this interview with Super, the total career, advocacy, and why she's more Filipino than you think.

Where in the world is Rachel Grant?

I'm in New York. I was actually in the Philippines last January and I'm planning to go back soon for the Human Nature summit.

Tell us about Human Nature. How did you discover the brand?

I went with my sister to a Sunday organic market there in Manila. I'm a big organic person, so those personal care products completely appealed to me. I bought lots of them! They made a huge difference on my skin. My favorites are the shampoo and the facial wash.

"I'M VERY Filipina," says Rachel Grant.

Actually, any product with cocoa butter in it is a favorite. I'd show them to people here and they'd be like: What is that? Can I use that? The ingredients are so novel, interesting, and exciting.

We heard it was you who wrote to Human Nature, volunteering to spread the word.

I bought products in Manila. Two months later, I was like: Oh no, how do I order them? I found out they were launching in the US, so I bought more products and e-mailed the website about how great they were. Then, I found out that the brand was related to Gawad Kalinga...and that did it for me.

It seems you really believe in the products. You've not like the usual celebrity-tapped endorsers.

I really have high hopes for it. I think the can be one of the biggest...aside from the cocoa goes—things coming out of the Philippines, and I'm not joking. I've gotten e-mails from [so many asking about the products. I have a lot of faith in them. They've only been around for less than two years and I can't believe how far they've come.

In this your first time working with Gawad Kalinga?

No, actually. In 2007, when I visited the Philippines, I asked someone if they could take me to a GK site. He went to Payatas—where I met several children. I tried to help out by giving them school supplies. I even gave the people from the GK villages my e-mail address so. We keep in touch and I'm friends with them on Facebook!

I'm sure your friends have asked you this before: Why are you doing this?

Yes, many of them do ask me this, even my relatives. I really don't know how to explain it. I mean, why not? I'm an incredibly passionate person, and I have tremendous faith in this—whatever it is I'm doing...is really a way of calling. It gives me so much happiness, gives me so much more words. If I would get paid for another job, doing this would be far more rewarding.

I asked this because I'm sure you've lived a very comfortable life...

But my upbringing also involved being taught to always be being and using the talts. So, if I'm given a chance because a hotel or a dubs, you know where I'd really want to be.

Your new effort at Ripley's—tell us about that.

They've decided to revive the show. They came to me and said they wanted me to be involved in the adventures, a traveler, and someone with the Love Gods look!

And you're the first female to represent the Ripley's brand, right?

It's really exciting! We just shot the pilot at Times Square. The series begins this September.

What about your film "Red Princess Blues?"

That's a movie I've been working on, and I play the lead—the princess. We have an awesome crew, headed by one of the lead artists of "Avatar," and the score team of "24."

"Red Princess Blues." How your part: Ethra, engineer [Filipina] by day, and a spy by night. You're also a martial arts instructor, specializing in Kali.

Yes, that's right. Actually I did a lot of ballet and dancing when I was a kid, and it wasn't until my junior age when I started getting into all kinds of martial arts.

When did you get bitten by the acting bug?

Since I was four or five. I have diary excerpts...where I could barely write—saying that I wanted to be an actress. I actually wanted to be like Mary Poppins because she could fly!

Talk about the challenge of making it in Hollywood.

It's very, very hard. There's a lot of people here, and there's certainly no short supply of actresses. It's one big rat race. Being half-Filipina generally makes it harder, but makes my look, vibe, and mindset more interesting.

How Filipino are you? Does it manifest in your daily lifestyle?

I'm very Filipino. When my friends and I take our food here, they wanna throw the rice. I say, I'll get it and make egg and fry-going [but] rice at home. And no matter how ugly a situation is, I can make it beautiful. I get that from my mom, from the Philippines.

What's a day like for you?

It really varies. I travel a lot. Like next week, I have to also when I'll be. I might be in LA. I give myself office hours even if I'm not in the home. I sit on my desk, communicating with people in LA, London, and the Philippines. It makes me very creative. If I don't sit on my desk, I wouldn't have sent that e-mail to Human Nature.

What's something not a lot of people know about you?

Gee, well, I don't go around telling people that I help and I volunteer. I know you're interviewing me now, but obviously, if it would help me—room like Human Nature, then why not? Also, I'm terribly, terribly shy. I look very confident in photographs, but when I'm not working, I'm just shy. I think that's the Filipina in me, like a typical Filipina girl—which I am! I'm very positive I have acting it in my young Filipina cousins.

What's Human Nature?

GAWANG KALINGAN INCORD, through its brand Human Nature, is the fastest-growing social enterprise in the country. Founded by Senia Mickiss-Wilk and Camille Claudio, it is guided by the Gawad Kalinga Founder Tony Meloto. Human Nature produces natural and organic personal care products that are 100 percent locally made and 100 percent free from harmful chemicals. It is guided by the principles of loving you, Philippines, yes-post, and pro-environment. It has 14 branches nationwide and to present in seven states in the US. To learn more about it, visit www.humannature.com.

MAGICAL MUSICAL. Scenes from "Cats"

Dissecting 'Cats'

As 'Cats' opens tonight at the CCP, Super shares how this well-loved musical converted a serious skeptic

By Patt Pichay

I HID MY DOUBTS. Mind: I really want to spend a few wee hours of my life watching grown men prancing around a stage?

"Yes," my brother insisted, looking at me like he thought I was being a complete idiot. Then, in an attempt to convince me of the magic of "Cats," he reluctantly handed me his DVD of the video version of the musical, repeatedly making me promise to take care of it.

My friend Gil, another big "Cats" fan, spotted the DVD the next day and started hyperventilating. "Oh, my god, let's watch it!"

He popped the disc into the player. "Watch the opening, watch it, watch it!" he kept barking at me, willing me to tear my eyes away from my laptop's screen. I looked up to see somehow our eyes appearing on the TV screen. "Does this mean now?" Gil said.

Jellicle cats

Soon, the music started. Soon, I was wondering what the hell Jellicle cats are. Clearly, I'd. Here and I are not old friends.

After 10 minutes, I said to Gil: "Maybe I shouldn't be watching this. Cats' would probably be more magical if I watch it with fresh eyes."

Two days later, I flew to Sydney to watch "Cats" at the Lyric Theatre.

So I got comfortable in my seat, said-without between Tom Prior/Abbey and Butch Francisco. I had to admit: I still had doubts.

Then, the show began.

"Cats" spins the tale of a tribe of Jellicle Cats that have gathered for the annual Jellicle Ball. There they regale Old Deuteronomy with their stories in hopes that they will be chosen to be reborn into a new life. Based on the book of poems, "Old Deuteronomy Book of Practical Cats," by TS Eliot, and composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, "Cats" has appealed to audiences worldwide for close to three decades now. Since the original production opened in London in 1981, "Cats" has been presented in over 300 cities in 26 countries and has been translated into 10 different languages. It has become the fourth longest-running show in the history of musical theatre.

And, the minute Grizabella stepped onto the stage, I understood why.

Grizabella

Delia Hannah had been transformed into Grizabella, the Glamour Cat and the emotional core of the story. When Hannah, 37, got heartbreaking, it was uplifting. I had her watching Tom Tuggie. I thought Mr. Mistoffelees was crazy (actually he left me breathless) and my heart broke for Grizabella.

After the show, when our hands were wet from clapping and the Cats had run off to transform back into people, we stayed in. And said were led onstage by Cats Company Managing Director Wilhelm Wee-wee with Cats my president Bambi Weiss and AD Frank Claravall (DG Private) Lamoh, two people responsible for bringing the show to Manila.

A serious "Cats" fan joined us on our quick backstage tour. This guy told us he loves "Cats" so much that he travels to different countries to watch the show. He'll probably end up in Manila soon.

Up close

During the stage up close was amazing. I was having a hard time walking in my heels and I took them off and walked around the stage barefoot.

But feel the very backstage and showed us the costumes and where the Cats do their makeup.

But that was just a preview.

The next day, we were given the chance to see the show's work that goes into making each show memorable for the audience.

Our first stop—the wig room. Sharon Cain, head of wigs, welcomed us. She talked about the importance of the Cats' wigs and how much care they put into making sure each one is ready for the show. "There are real 24,000 each and are made from yak hair. Wigs are washed every single day after every show. There is so much high energy in the show and the wigs have to be maintained really well."

Sharon built up the wig Lea Salonga will be wearing as Grizabella in Manila. "You can actually see the character in just the wig. Each wig is part of the story of the Cat."

She got a taste of what it's like to be a Cat when Sharon allowed us to try on some of the wigs. I wore Demeter's orange and black wig.

Later that day, Sharon and Hunter Masson showed us how people are transformed into Cats using makeup. We were surprised to find out that the Cats all do their own makeup.

After we had been de-wigged, we met Ben Morrison, head of wardrobe, who told us about the work they put into the costumes. "Each cast and chorus has two sets of costumes. Even their understudies have two each. This show is high maintenance. There's a high injury rate as even the understudies are treated as if they are main characters. Everything is washed everyday here."

Ben and his team have brought 30 suitcases and about 300 backups for the show's

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo
SATURDAY Special

Miley Cyrus grows up

By Rito P. Asilo

CYRUS. More adult-sound for the popular teen star.

MILEY CYRUS wants to break out of her squeaky-clean image as she transitions into adulthood...and her latest album, "Can't Be Tamed," whose theme is freedom and emancipation from the stultifying expectations and often compromises of adult life, is proof of this resolve.

No padsuner

In the current single, "Can't Be Tamed," the 17-year-old star doesn't just tell her man she's no padsuner. She screams: "I have to get my way 24 hours a day/ 'Cause I'm not like that/ Every guy everywhere just gives me mad attention/ Like I'm under suspicion, I always get the 'Cuz 'I'm built like that...."

Whether you agree with her or not, the song and its lyrics just reek with confidence, boastful further by a thumping beat and an obedient spirit. The singer amps up the sassiness more in this fat band's music video, which features Miley—clad in a black bodice and sporting dark-eye liner and smoky deep-chestnut lolita—pole dancing in her hostess costume. Eat your hearts out, Lady Gaga and Beyoncé!

Truth is, however, Cyrus is in an awkward stage, where her retained sensibility still veers between childhood and adulthood. And, despite her album's rock and electronica-heavy lineup, it's hard to take her seriously when she still sounds more teen pop-bodytheir version of the world Sony (the dance floor anthem, "Who Owns My Heart"). In "Permanent December," she jumps on the rap-and-autotune band wagon, but the musical arrangement feels forced.

Her fun, zippy voice and in-your-face singing style is better suited to ballads like "Take Me Along," "Forgiveness and Love" and the beautifully sculpted "Stay."

However, if all you want to do is groove to her new "adult" sound, your best bets are "Who Owns My Heart," "Liberty Walk," "Two More Lonely People," "Babot" and the title track.

Charice's 'beautification' regimen worries observers, fans

CHARICE. No pain, no gain?

By Nestor U. Torre

TO PREPARE for her shooting sessions with "Glee" starting anytime now, top teen singer, Charice, went recently almost on TV undergoing several procedures intended to make her look better. Good heavily-dilutered for the cameras. Some of them appeared to cause her a lot of discomfort...but no pain, no gain, so she endured them as best she could.

However, one procedure caused us to wonder if Charice's "beautifying" regimen would be that beneficial to her new acting career: In some shots, she was shown being given some botox injections.

Now, botox shots are popular because they "freeze" facial lines and wrinkles and make women of a certain age look younger. But, hey, Charice is still in her teens, so she's definitely too young for the procedure.

CHARICE'S G2

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 INCEPTION
4 THE LAST AIRBENDER
5 RATING RAPATE
6 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
8 CINCO
9 ARABO
10 INCEPTION (PREMIERE)

MANILA — MITRO EAST

1 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
2 INCEPTION
3 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
4 THE LAST AIRBENDER
5 CINCO
6 RATING RAPATE
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
1 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
2 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
3 CINCO
4 THE LAST AIRBENDER
5 RATING RAPATE
6 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
8 INCEPTION

NOVALICHES — FORUM ROBINSONS

1 INCEPTION
2 RATING RAPATE
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
4 THE LAST AIRBENDER

Watch this movie in Digital 3D in Movieworld's 3D DIGITAL CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

STA. ROSA — LIPA

1 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
2 INCEPTION
3 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
4 CINCO
5 RATING RAPATE
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 RATING RAPATE
3 INCEPTION
4 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
5 RATING RAPATE

DASMARINAS — STARMILLS

1 THE LAST AIRBENDER
2 CINCO
3 RATING RAPATE
4 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
5 INCEPTION
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 INCEPTION
3 CINCO
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
5 RATING RAPATE
6 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

IMUS — ANGELES

1 RATING RAPATE
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 THE LAST AIRBENDER
4 CINCO
5 INCEPTION
1 RATING RAPATE
2 CINCO INCEPTION
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
4 THE LAST AIRBENDER

TACLOBAN — DUMAGUETE

1 INCEPTION
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 RATING RAPATE
1 CINCO INCEPTION
2 RATING RAPATE
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 CINCO
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
5 INCEPTION
6 RATING RAPATE
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 RATING RAPATE
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
4 INCEPTION
5 CINCO
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

GENSAN

1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 RATING RAPATE
3 INCEPTION
4 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

ILOCOS NORTE

1 INCEPTION
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 RATING RAPATE

Candy tells a 'Tall Story'

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

CANDY QUIMPO Concio's "Tall Story" was launched in London last month by Random House and David Fickling. In February next year, it will be released in the US.

Prior to becoming a renowned author, Candy was a reporter, then associate editor of Mr & Ms. Special Edition, the pictorial-wedding tabloid she played a key role in the 1986 People Power Revolution. She was part of its staff, along with Fe Zamora, Francisco Joaquin, PDI's current editor in chief, and Dan ambos.

As a freelance journalist, she has written for Asia Magazine, Asiaweek, the New York Daily News, Cosmo Star and The Berkshire Post. Thereafter, she moved to the United Kingdom, where she became the London correspondent of the world news features agency, Inter Press Service. She now lives in London with her British husband and three children.

Zamora, a previous flatmate, once told her about a pretty girl bitten by scuba-diving. To this author, she describes her as "Charlesbovary friend, from whom she borrowed the idiom, Amendolina-my-foot," the novel's 13-year-old half-British, half-Filipina principal character.

GOLIMLAY (center), with husband, Richard, and their children, Mick, Jack and Mia.

Feel-good tale

According to Madeline Amos, "Tall Story" is one of the "1,000 best tales of the summer." She adds, "It's a feel-good tale about a basketball-mad London family, and her exceedingly tall Filipino half-brother, Bernardo, who's reunited with his mother and sister after 16 years. Shifting use of Philippine superstitions and legends, the novel brings magic to a down-home story of sweet jealousies and sibling love."

The "Tall Story's" sweet, heartwarming love, the author acknowledged early Amazon Magazine and Empress L. Agonoy as her writing heroes. Entertainment was provided by the Goodyear and the singing Quimpo clan.

"Tall Story" is published in the Philippines by Bayer Mendez of Cacho Publishing House and is available at Powerbooks. Visit www.tallstory.ph.

Join the Angel Diaz in Japan on Oct. 30-31 the Batman Phantom Japan courses it. Much love your friend mandy.navasero@yahoo.com, or call 899-3767.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

THEATRE NO. 1

PROMENADE

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

Prepaid Card

moviewordus

Charice's

From page G1

Meow, Jason Marley could freeze facial features into an impressive mask of "perfect" boredom—which is fine because if you're a vamp model, but terrible if you're an actor.

Why so? Because actors, unlike models, need to show real emotions and emotions on their faces, and this is precisely what botox does: serve to eliminate by "locking" facial muscles and nerves.

Emotions

So, if Charice wants to do well as an actress, she should seriously stop with the botox shots. If her "Glee" directors hear about her lower eyelids, they might have a fit. How will they be able to get a full and moving performance out of her if her lower eyes the emotion she's required to share with viewers?

We hope that the TV report about Charice's botox shots was misinformed or otherwise incorrect—or, as harsh done. But, if in fact she did get them, we trust that their "Sweetheart" will still be intrigued before the young actress-singer shows her screen for "Glee."

Right after news about Charice's "reconstructive"

From one great religious event to another

From page G1

'Mrs. A's Opus'

At 5 p.m. on Aug. 1, U. Sto. Tomas's University of Manila presents Ramona Arrieta, Leah Chase, Ryan Cayabyab, Oliver Subings, Fe Manalang Francisco and other outstanding artists in "Mrs. A's Opus" at the Floor de Lis Theatre.

The concert is for the benefit of the SPUM-OMSS scholarship fund, and a tribute to professor Carmencita Tionloc Arrieta—or "Mrs. A," an accomplished pianist, piano pedagogue and educator whose five decades of dedication has benefited many talented students.

Back-to-back performances

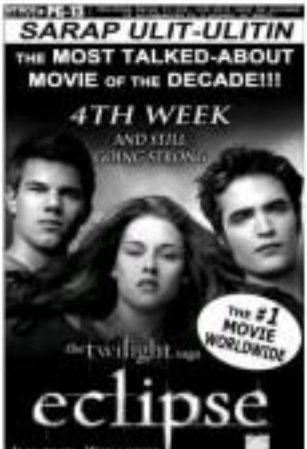
The world-famous Lettermen and Cascades perform back-to-back on July 25 at Ayala Cinemas, July 29 at Cebu Plaza, Ayala Center Cebu, and July 31 at University of Baguio. Call 532-8883 or 911-5555.

Stars enliven Smart Buddy 'Samahan'

Hundreds of thousands of prepaid subscribers of leading wireless service provider, Smart Communications, Inc., had a memorable summer experience in some of the brightest stars on TV today—Sam Milby, Bea Alonzo, Gerald Anderson, Alex Gonzaga and Image Gazette—joined the Smart Buddy Hot Summer Samahan 2010, a series of concerts held recently in some of the country's biggest malls.

From its kick-off in Baguio, to Legazpi, Ormoc, Cebu, to the three-day-culminating event at SM Megamall, Smart Buddy subscribers had instant access, not only to top-notch entertainment, but also to the latest and most innovative offers of Smart Buddy such as the Load Wallet, the Quick Access SIM, various prepaid smart phone kits, and mobile Internet packages. Visit www.smart.com.ph/buddy.

LET'S SAMAHA. Performers with the Carpenters at the Big Dome and Cebu Waterfront Hotel



Charice's

From page G1

negatives hit the media, other people noticed the way we did, pointing out that the singer-actress was indeed too young to undergo such a procedure.

The strong public reaction appeared to have caused a flurry of cover-up or "damage control" initiatives, with some of Charice's handlers explaining that the boost shots weren't really for a cosmetic benefit, but to relieve muscle pain. Another "explanation" had it that the procedure was intended to firm up a facial muscle that made Charice's face look wider than it should.

Concern

For our part, however, our concern is not about those side issues, but about the fact that Charice is too young for botox shots—and, more to the point, they could negatively affect her ability to express emotions with her face. An essential part of an actor's work.

We worry that the potential "freezing" effect could last months or even months, as Charice's desire for "Glee" might be adversely affected.

We hope, of course, that these fears turn out to be groundless, and that Charice will come up with performances on "Glee" that will do her proud. For its sake we can all hope Inarticulate? Unnerved? enough about.

NOW SHOWING

Welcome change of pace for Judy Ann, Sarah

GERONIMO AND SAINTOS. Pore-up viewers in "Hating Kapatid"

By Rito P. Asilo

IT'S HARD to imagine Judy Ann Santos and Sarah Geronimo playing sisters. But, the lead actresses of Moon Doronila's "Hating Kapatid" bridge their star-rich screen affiliation with a believability that makes it easier for moviegoers to let this casting wrinkle slide.

Rica Salvador (Santos) was only 13 when her parents (Dennis Gonzales, Cherry Pie Picache) decided to seek greener pastures in Libya, for a two-year stint that turned on for two decades, leaving Rica and her younger sister, Cecilia (Geronimo), in the care of their benevolent godfather-grandmother, Auxol Urdaneta Picache).

After Cecil is hurt in an accident, the guilt-ridden Rica decides to renew all hope and breaks up with her loving boyfriend, Berng (JC de Vera), to devote her life to taking care of her kid sister—a decision that turns her into a stern and meddlesome opinionator who will step at nothing to make sure that Cecil's romantic interest, the clumsy and bumbling Ethel (Luis Manzano), doesn't ever get to first base!

Things take a turn for the worse when the siblings' parents finally come home, making Rica suddenly feel useless, left out and underappreciated for her sacrifices. How does Cecil make her jealous sis realize that she's all grown up and is now more than ready to handle life's challenges on her own?

Dialogue

Out-of-sync dialogue and color-grading mishaps notwithstanding, there's more to "Hating Kapatid" than the usual verbal and sight gags we're inured to watching in local comedies.

True, the premise of Dreamsat Inter-vision's latest effort isn't all that original, but it's buoyed up by a comedic sensibility that doesn't rely on stereotypical actors' mug-popping antics to draw belly laughs from the peanut gallery.

Instead, it derives its humor from the situations the characters find themselves entangled in, to the eventual comic payoff both enforced.

The movie is a welcome change of pace for Santos and Geronimo, who got to do fight comedy with a smattering of drama. The latter is well-cast in a role that doesn't require her to do much, and plays it by the numbers.

But, the production's top acting grade belongs to Santos, who accomplishes a difficult feat—she makes her "ogre" character likable and empathetic. She switches from drama to comedy with equal ease and never resorts to many overwrought gimmicks (which, interestingly, she's a theatre right to behold in her literature, fifty memories with De Vera, which she executes with subtlety and panache.

Mistaken identity

Minutes finally gets rid of his TV-host persona. He figures in a rip-roaring scene with Geronimo as the latter pursues him all over the metropolis to apologize for a case of mistaken identity. And, De Vera is an able and dashing consort.

Unfortunately, "Hating Kapatid" has a major drawback that distracts from its enticing elements. Shameless plugs and eye-rending product placements, some of them within their respective vignettes, parade shops, sanitary napkins, fast-food chains, video shops, cell phone networks, barcodes and credit products—ad it!

As some point, a disappearing moviegoer behind us sang a product's jingle just to demonstrate that too much of anything is a turnoff.

MEET & GREET
Jon Foo
the star of
TEKKEN
July 25, 2010
3:30 pm
Glorietta 4 Cinemas

- Get limited Tekken movie posters and have it autographed by Jon Foo when you purchase your movie tickets in advance (first 80 moviegoers)
- Join the on-the-spot Tekken game competition
- Catch the cosplayers as they strut their Tekken-inspired costumes

From one great religious event to another

MARQUEE. Tagalin/GMA-7's newest sitcom.

FROM SEPT. 22 to Oct. 7 this year, hundreds of Faith (Catholic Pilgrimages and Cruises) will take pilgrims on a unique spiritual journey from one great religious event to another—

the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play 2010 in Germany, then on Switzerland and Marian shrines in France (Lourdes), Portugal (Fatima) and the 1300th year of Santiago de Compostela in Spain!

The spiritually uplifting journey, on wings of Emirates and Etihad routes, also visits Prague, Innsbruck in Austria, the Roman ruins in Nimes, France, the beautiful Dublin cathedral in Burgos, Spain, and other memorable religious sites. For details, call 834-8127, 527-0344, 0917 908-9596, telefax 426-7295, or email jusepaz-neys@gmail.com.

MONTAGE

'Kaya ng Powers'

GMA-7's newest sitcom, "Kaya ng Powers," premieres July 24 after "24 Oras" and topbills Joey Marquez, Pinky Marquez, Khian Ivanica and Elmo Magalona.

'7 Wonders of the Muslim World'

On Aug. 1 at 10 p.m., Discovery Channel's "7 Wonders of the Muslim World" showcases seven exquisite mosques and recounts the history and message of Islam through the eyes of six young Muslims.

Sun Tess All

From July 9 to Oct. 5, Sunny Isidro can avail of Sun Tess TessAll with 150 texts to all networks for one day for only P150 (up to 10 texts each to

Aristocrat's 'Kalayaan Feast' suspended

The Aristocrat Restaurant's "Kalayaan Feast" has been suspended to July 31 to enable more lovers of Filipino food to feast on sumptuous set menus cooked the traditional Pinoy way, each named after famous Filipino heroes. And, for homecooked meals in the comfort of your home or office, call Aristocrat's delivery and catering service at 524-9671.

Voice and flute concert

On July 25, the Kiss the Cook Gourmet Café, UP Village, features soprano Cecille Lopez-Medina, flutist Dalmacio Dalmacio and pianist Mary Anne Lorenzo. Call 740-4152 or 0906 319-4278.

Movies on TV

Today on HBO at 6:30 a.m., "The End of the Affair." July 23 at 9 p.m., "Coraline." July 26 at 11 a.m., "The Tale of Despereaux." July 27 at 2:45 p.m., "Funny About Love." July 28 at 9 p.m., "Sex and the City." July 29 at 7:30 p.m., "Down to Earth." July 30 at 2:30 p.m., "Birds."

On Cinemax today at 6 a.m., "The Italian Job." July 25 at 9 a.m., "The 7th Voyage of Sinbad." July 27 at 2:45 p.m., "Goodnight at the OK Corral." July 28 at 3:45 p.m., "The Battle of Britain." July 29 at 2 p.m., "Sir Harry's Inlaw." July 30 at 6 a.m., "The Great Escape."

SIM Only Broadband Plan

The SIM Only Broadband Plan is as famous as Pluto's 350 bits. For only a P500 monthly subscription fee, you get 45 hours of Internet surfing with speeds of up to 2 Mbps.

You can use the SIM card with any wireless modem. Then, you may reload your SIM Lite with P25 to get three hours of Internet, P50 for one day of unlimited surfing, or P200 for seven days of unlimited Internet. Call 399-5555, or log on to www.smartbroadband.com.ph for details.

FROM G

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ 'Maskarang Totoo' is a gift that keeps on giving /H4

SATURDAY Special

HUPPERT. Curious about how Mendoza (right) drew out his actors.

Dante Mendoza bares more details on how he cast Isabelle Huppert

LOS ANGELES—In our e-mail interview with Brillante "Dante" Mendoza about his movie, "Tirador (Slingshot)," finally getting a commercial run in New York, we also asked him to share more details on how he cast French actress, Isabelle Huppert, in his next film, "Captured."

"I was having my retrospective in Sao Paolo," began the Cinema 2000 Best Director awardee for "Kinatay" on how he hired Isabelle, who won the Cannes Best Actress award and is the most nominated actress for the Cesar Award, the French equivalent of the Oscars. "I found out that Isabelle was also in town, so I went to her hotel to say hello. She was very accommodating, and we ended up discussing my next project, tentatively titled 'Captured.' She was very curious as to how I drew actors based on what she saw in 'Kinatay' in Cannes, where she was the head of the jury.

She was very impressed with Carlo Maria."

Dante, one of the most prolific and acclaimed exponents of the Philippine New Wave, continued, "I asked her if she wanted to go back to the Philippines (Isabelle had been to the country before, as reported by PDI's Bayani San Diego Jr.). She replied, 'Why not?' We exchanged e-mails after that. And, she loved the pictures we took at the hotel."

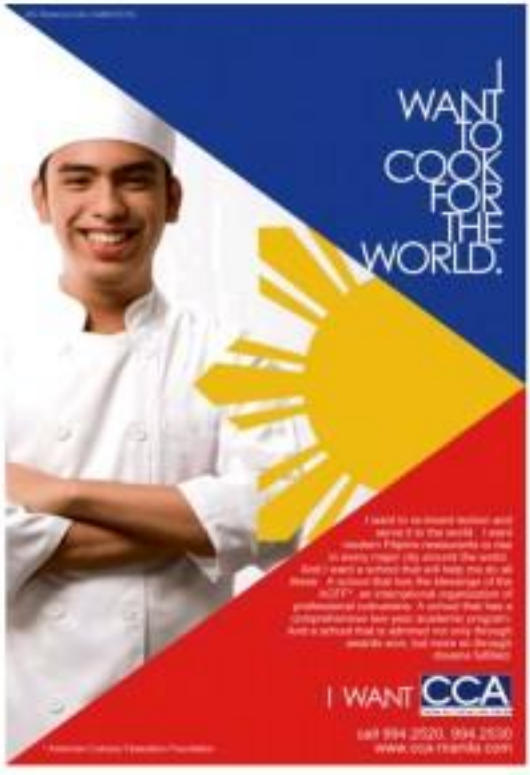
The multiawarded filmmaker added, "I had lunch with her again last July 16 in Paris. She asked me if Coco and Isabel Lopez are also part of 'Captured,' and I said, 'Yes.' She was very pleased. She's looking forward to making this film and collaborating with Filipino actors."

On how "Tirador" is significant to him personally and professionally, Dante answered,

(MORE) H2

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rahoul C. Sagudan



Time for Christopher de Leon to take stock of his career thrust

By Nestor U. Torre

DE LEON: Needs to toss down his reality checklists

SOME PEOPLE believe that Christopher de Leon is not his TV film actor. If they're right, we're in trouble, because the acclaimed actor's portrayals haven't been all that distinguished of late.

Those examples that come to mind, because we recently caught Dr. Leon's performances on "Maala ala Mo Kaya?," where he played a choir master whose wife had left him. To make things worse, he had a serious illness, as his prognosis were grim and he somewhat took out his negative feelings on his young wards when he had too much to drink.

The sort of down-on-his-luck character would require an actor of De Leon's level and stability to head every backward to turn down but all-too-readily identifiable figure as persona, in lieu of the creation of another, distinctly different character.

Modifications

But, the actor generally failed to do this. In some quiet concerns to play himself, with a few modifications here and there in terms of voice and mannerisms. He still employed the physical and vocal "hagod" and "portsa" usually associated with him through the years. His portrayal wasn't bad, but it was just a variation on his standard "acceptable" performances.

To be fair, De Leon did come up with a moving death scene that was admirably

TMC-H2

How I met my close college chums

By Bebs Cervantes

IT WAS MAY of 1956. Having graduated from Cle-ve-land De La Salle College, it was a different experience for me to enroll at UP Diliman. Five of us finals my batch entered the state university despite stern warnings that we would become alienist—or worse!

One of the teachers we were warned about was Ricardo Pascual. So, imagine my surprise when I first bumped into the fatsoing-clad, white-haired Philosophy professor at the Liberal Arts basement cafeteria in the company of other teachers. I chose a table close to them so I could overhear discussions on "intelligent" matters.

Yes, I was chat young and impressionable. I auditioned for the UP Dramatic Club, along with the likes of Lino Brocka, Jose Ma. Bisua, Heidi de Peralta, Georgie Rosal, Bonnie Mondelbaum, Pinky Rigor and Carolina "Bobbie" Bluhy.

The UP Dramatic Club was proud of producing the likes of Jun Aquino, Tito Guiol, Cherry Santos, Jules Wapnir, Boots Arevalo, Joe "Estan" Mari, Sergio Cuilloz, Joy Cardona Virata, Joe Virata, Celia Diaz and Day Lustre.

Bureaucrat

Before the year was over, Bro. Fargas (Jess Bautista) joined us, along with the likes of Mernael Bernal, Adel de Leon and Wenna Cuilloz (now Mernael). A tall Kokomatso, Jaap Jan, performed in "Oedipus Rex" that year. Soon later, he retained to his native country and became a bureaucrat.

MARQUEE. The country's first TV musical was

When Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero received a Rockefeller scholarship, dean Tomas Fonacier, chose watchful Isabel "Bebeng" Sevilla as our adviser. Those who had inhibitions about Bebeng's visceral approach were happy to learn it mandated by the literary that Bebeng insisted upon. We shared artistic points of view, highlighted by "genre" jokes, courtesy of George.

Cuentro

I opted to enroll as part of a block, which means a group of students sharing the same classes, among my blockmates were comedian Dolores "Dee" Marquez, the soaps-to's first TV musical star, and Mary Ann quen Caballo.

Last July 17, Bebe launched her book, "Philippine Literature Up Close" (for literature on abroad and Lim, but mentioned me, along with NET Virgie Moreno, Jacqueline Amano and Boots Anson-Roa.

So, when a young student asked how I knew Bebeng I replied, "Why, we were classmates!"

Time ...

From page 01

simple and subtle, in contrast to his more self-conscious maybe "climactic" scenes in the storyline. It was in this enchanting scene that we reviewed Dr Leon as his mature best, and read the fact that he didn't allow it to come to the best out here.

Truth to tell, Dr Leon's "career best" performance ever generally limited in the '50s and '60s, when he was meticulously mentored by his director, the late Gerry Leon Brocka.

In his debut film, "Pinatubong Ito Ngani Walang," Dr Leon was effectively and even memorable showcased by Brocka in his hitingly satirical drama about the underlying stickiness and characters in a small Filipino town.

After he and Brocka reportedly had a falling-off, Dr Leon found another visionary mentor in Eddie Romero, who elicited a similarly memorable portrayal from the young actor in the classic Filipino freedman in "Cain at Kanal Bisan, Paano Kayo Napapunta?," which had scenes in Manila.

Dr Leon also did well in Gerry de Leon's "Banaue," Mario Orfanel's "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos" and Ishmael Bernal's movies. All too soon, however, his theatre reputation got the better of him, as his subsequent portrayals fell into too-predictable a pattern, and thus began to erode in value and stature.

These days, Dr Leon is still one of our more dependable character actors, but the lustre is off the rose. Perhaps it's time for him to take stock of his career choices, and reevaluate the accumulated words of his praise, manner through the years.

The first step to-ward this is for Leon, the still and sweeping, to forget himself and focus totally on each new character as-signed to him, making those characters as different from his own persona as possible.

With so strong a mentor to further guide and mold him now, Dr Leon has to do this purely yourself, by himself. For, if he digs deep into his creative "ingrain," he could still come up with the machine-thrust gems.

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Present two (2) regular tickets or one (1) HD ticket of any movie at Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center, Market! Market! & Trilogy cinemas from May 7-July 31, 2010 and get a chance to win exciting prizes!
BLOCKBUSTER EDITION
POWER PLANT CINEMA
INCEPTION - POLI
THE LAST AIRBENDER - E
THE LAST AIRBENDER - D
INCEPTION (in 3D) - POLI
SORCERER'S APPRENTICE - E
THE LAST AIRBENDER (in 3D) - E
MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
Walter Mart
Greenbelt Theaters
The City of Makati
EQUUS
Directed by Andre Gaston
STRICTLY FOR ADULTS 18 AND ABOVE
Experience Show Business at its BEST!
Welcome to the country's one & only true private cinema.
Greenbelt
WELCOME TO MANILA!!! JON FOO CATCH HIM LIVE!
THE MUCH-AWAITED MOVIE ADAPTATION OF THE WORLD'S #1 ARCADE GAME
TEKKEN
IN THEATERS AUG. 4
NINA WILLIAMS
ANNA WILLIAMS
BRYAN FURY
YOSHIMITSU
JIN KAZAMA
EDDY GORDO
RAVEN

Carrying heavy loads

ONE DAY, five boys decided to help build a bridge for their town. While the older men moved rocks and boulders using a wheelbarrow, the boys were tasked to carry rocks from the river to the construction site several meters away.

The rocks were heavy, so the boys struggled to do their task. A group of lazy onlookers teased them, "Those rocks are heavy! You can't carry that heavy load all the way! Give up! Just play with us. You are suffering unnecessarily."

Impact

The weight of the rocks and their colleagues' teasing had a great impact on the boys who, one by one, gave up trying to finish their work—except for one of them, who continued to carry his rock to the construction site.

When the rock became too heavy to carry, he pushed and rolled it. He didn't give up trying. All the teasing and discouragement didn't distract or disrupt him—because he was focused. There was no way he was letting it go on his own and prove his haters.

In this world, many things are said about who are we and what are do. If they're true, let those words change us for the better. But if they're merely rumors, ignore them—and get on with your task!

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Manuel

Dante ...

Turn page 6-B

"It's one of my most enjoyable and challenging movies because of the logistics and the way I shot the film. It was guerrilla filmmaking at its best. It was shoving the shoot that I desired. That is how I want to make films in the future." I had so much faith in 'Heidee' that I had to mortgage my house just to finish the film. Until now, I still owe Sundance (a post-production house) some money but I never regretted spending each."

Portrait

"Finally," wholly was written by Sidney Lowe and is described as a "vivid portrait of petty thieves and hustlers," starts its commercial run in New York this weekend at the Producers Club's Indiefocus theater (the latest addition in Manhattan's influxive cinemas. The theater is located in midtown Manhattan, at 358 West 44 st., between 8th and 9th avenues.

Winner of the Calipari Jury Prize for Its influence in the 2008 Berlin Film Festival and other international awards, "Heidee" stars Marvin, Jennifer Ring, Jay Hernia, Jaclyn Jose, Nathan Lopez and John Hau.

E-mail:twinpatio_1565@yahoo.com

'Veritas ...'

From page 6-B

added tax, the manufacture (Philhealth) coverage, free nutritional and dental services, stipend for indigents, etc.

More than disseminating technical information and clarifying facts about the salient features of this law, what delighted us was the way the hosts handled the topic and elevated it to a higher level of discussion, not—about gnawing old and the inevitability of death.

"Veritas Pilipinas" presents the good side of news stories, and it succeeds in this regard because it refuses to embrace the livid, doom and gloom packaging of other news programs.

Moreover, Fr. Alfonso and Ms Lamoreal's "smiling" voices are contagious, and their sincere intention to inform and serve radiate from their own more to their listeners.

SM CITY CEBU
SM LIFESTYLE CENTER
SM SEASIDE CITY CEBU
SM CITY CONSOLACION
SM CITY DANAO
SM CITY BACOLOD
SM CITY ILOILO
SM CITY DAVAO
SM CITY GENERAL SANTOS
SM CITY BAGUIO
SM CITY CLARK
SM CITY SAN FERNANDO
SM CITY OLONGAPO
SM CITY SAN PABLO
SM CITY LUCENA
SM CITY BATANGAS
SM CITY SAN JOSE
SM CITY MARIKINA
SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SM CITY MANILA
SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SM CITY MANILA
SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SM CITY MANIL

'Maskarang Totoo' is a gift that keeps on giving

By Nestor G. Torre

DURING THE RECENT sixth Cinemalaya indie film fest at the CCP, I watched more than my share of movies by new and established filmmakers. But, the event that made the festival truly significant for me was not the main film competition and indie showcases, but a side event—"Maskarang Totoo," a retrospective of the late, great artist, Johnny Delgado's (Juan Weles), uniquely powerful and idiosyncratic paintings at the CCP's Pandiyo Gallerium Tolentino.

I'm quite familiar with Johnny's artworks, but I still found the CCP exhibit a major revelation because it showcased some huge and excellent pieces that he painted only a few years or even months before he passed away.

In uncompromising terms, they vivified the conflicting anger and rage of emotions he felt in relation to his grave illness, what it meant to him, and its effect on the loved ones, especially his wife, Leonor, and daughters Ana and Gia, he would profess have to leave behind.

DELGADO'S paintings are, sometimes, an emotional roller-coaster ride into a tormented man and artist's soul, but it still ends up triumphantly on the side of the angels, because it showcases Johnny's deep and abiding faith. Granted, these images are more subtle and accessible than his raging torrents of life and death, but they ultimately prevail.

Absolute truth

Johnny's emotional honesty in these key pieces mirrors his similar search for and expression of absolute truth in an artist in the cocoon of his long and luminous (despite career in theater, TV and film.

It must have been painful for Johnny to confront his demons and fill canvas after canvas with their brooding and anguished images. But, being the artistic honest artist that he was, life itself was his raging point of reference and he wouldn't have had it any other way.

The day we viewed "Maskarang Totoo," Cinema Justice Gloria and other colleagues of Johnny and Leonor were also appreciative viewers of the exhibit.

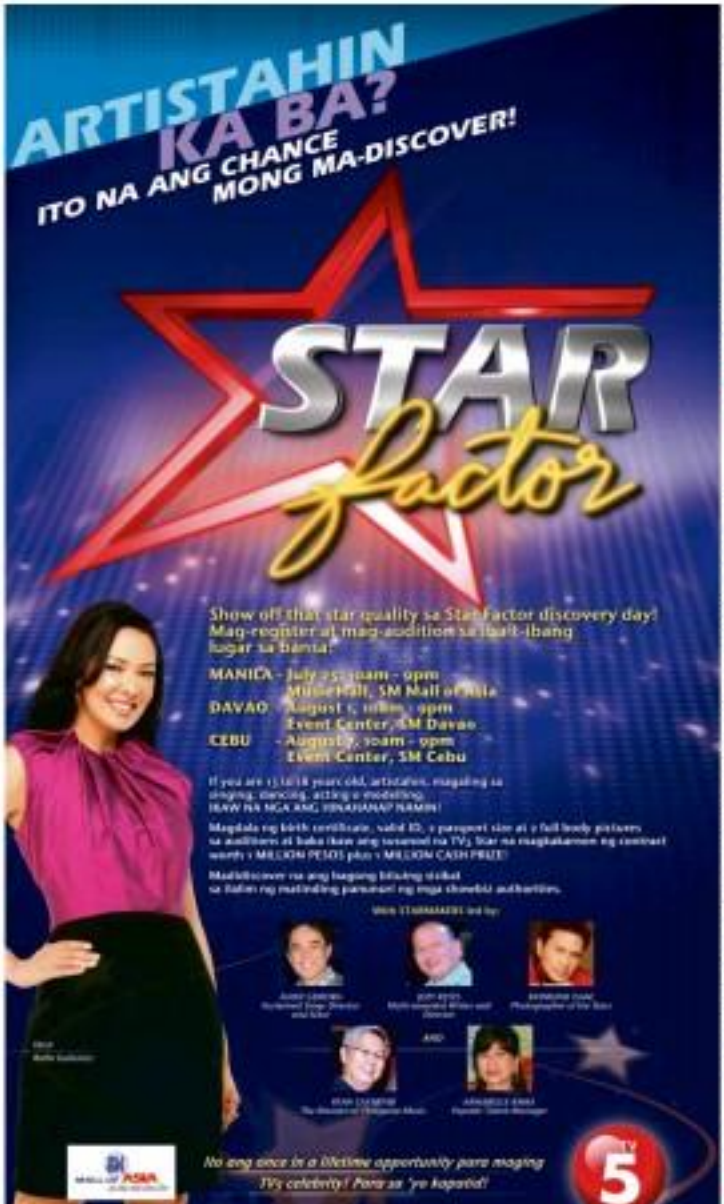
We learn that the CCP agrees to extend the exhibition for two more weeks, to enable others to get to know and value Johnny Delgado, not just as an iconic actor, but also as one of our most powerfully "unidimensional" visual artists.

Workshop

Readers who are surprised to learn about Johnny's "alternative" or "parallel" artistic persona as a painter might be interested to know that he started painting in 1981, when he was cast as a visual artist in the film, "Mga Uod at Hinas." So, true that Danny Batoon mentored him, and he later also joined Ray Albano's art workshop.

Later, he put down his paintbrush to focus on other concerns, but he would periodically park it up again to paint portraits of loved ones and friends, and to chronicle key moments of his life.

After he learned that he had cancer, Johnny turned to painting again—with a ferocious passion. He did close to a hundred paintings in one year! With his recompleare last fourish, Johnny Delgado has left us a humorous, passionate, "death defying" gift that keeps on giving.



AM/FM

'Veritas Pilipinas' delivers the good news

By Ronald G. Mangubat

IF THERE'S truth to the saying that our morning disposition depends on which side of the bed we woke up, perhaps the same is true for the type of radio programs we listen to.

Early one Monday morning two weeks ago, I tuned in to Radio Veritas (dwRV 846) by chance and found myself drawn to their news show, "Veritas Pilipinas," aired Mondays to Fridays from 6 to 8 a.m.

Hosted by the cheerful tandem of Fr. Nono Alfonso S.J. and Penelope Jing Magsino (Lorenzo), the program starts away from the usual run-and-drivel practice and has a theme for the day that connects speakers and listeners get to react to, while news tidbits and field reports add to the format's collective structure and relevance.

Serious topic

For example, on the day we tuned in, Fr. Nono and Lorenzo discussed a serious topic: "What is the role of media in today's society?" As they read the headlines about the alarming increase in the number of slain journalists, they emphasized the sacrifices made by their colleagues.

On the other hand, Lorenzo admitted that not all journalists share the same passion and commitment—some do sloppy work and don't double-check facts. Then, listeners started sharing their opinions about the media's watchdog function and "policing" power which, they said, could be used either for check and balance or abuse.

At the end of the program, it was heartening to hear the hosts say that, as media people, they should constantly scrutinize themselves and their performance.

Several days after, Fr. Alfonso and Jing discussed another relevant topic: The Extended Income Criteria' Act, which understandably drew a lot of responses.

Experts from the Department of Health and Bureau of Internal Revenue were interviewed to enlighten the public about the issues and exemptions from the value

TURN TO A3

ALFONSO and LORENZO. Sincere invasion to inform and serve their listeners.